



# Walnut Hills High School Association

## NEWSLETTER

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February 2012

### 2011-12 WHHS Parent Board

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#### Ex-officio directors

Jeff Brokamp, Principal  
Debbie Heldman, Alumni Foundation Exec. Dir.  
Penny Poirier, WHIP Representative  
Molly Akin, Athletic Boosters

### Parent Board Meetings

2011-12

All are welcome at the monthly Parent Board meetings, 7-9 p.m., in the school conference room. Remaining dates for the 2011-12 school year are: Feb. 28, March 20, April 24.

## President's Message

Hello Walnut Parents:

### Get involved!

We have just begun the second semester of this school year and as parents we surely have encouraged our students to seek out every possible opportunity at Walnut Hills. Parents can do that, too.

### If you don't know how to get involved, attend WalnutFest on Feb. 25!

Join parents, coaches, teachers, administrators, and friends at a party to support Walnut Hills. Come to the Masonic Center, park for free and have a good time bidding on silent auction items, listening to the great musical performances from some of our students, checking out the baskets created by our clubs and sports teams, and catching up with friends. The money raised from the event goes to Athletic Boosters, WHIP, and Parent Board to help to provide things that our students need, such as musical instruments, athletic trainers, textbooks, performance music, computer hardware, and everything else that it takes to keep our school rising to the highest!

### Need another way to get involved? Attend a Parent Board meeting!

The Walnut Hills Parent Board is the parent association for the high school. If you have not had a chance to attend a Parent Board meeting so far this school year, know that everyone is welcome at any of our meetings.

Attend a monthly Parent Board meeting to learn about all that Walnut Hills High School has to offer students and parents. If you want to get involved there are plenty of opportunities. If you simply want hear about what is occurring at school, the Parent Board meeting is the place to be. Each month's meeting includes a review of WHIP and Boosters activities; an update from Principal Jeff Brokamp; summaries of LSDMC and ILT meetings; reports from faculty, the Alumni Foundation, the 7th and 8th Grade Committee, and more.

Walnut Hills High School is more fun when you are involved. Hope to see you at a Parent Board meeting or WalnutFest!

Cassandra Clement  
Parent Board President

## Boy's basketball team tops in FAVC

The Eagles are heating up basketball courts all over town! Catch one of the last five games, all at 7:30 p.m.: **Jan. 31** at Anderson; **Feb. 3** vs. Loveland; **Feb. 7** at Kings; **Feb. 10** vs. Wilmington; and **Feb. 14** at Little Miami.

Read more on page 3.

# Parent Board

## WalnutFest set for Feb. 25

By now, you should have received your formal invitation to one of Walnut's most important annual fundraisers — "Going Wal-Nutz," the 2012 WalnutFest.



All your WalnutFest info is at [www.walnutfest.com](http://www.walnutfest.com).

The fun runs from 7:30 to 11 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Masonic Center Ballroom downtown. Once you arrive, and drop your car for free valet parking, you'll be treated to live music performed by Walnut's own musicians, food, cash bar, raffle baskets, a silent auction and a "wine toss."

Ticket prices begin at \$40 a person, with other packages available to increase your support. More information on tickets (and other details) is at [www.walnutfest.com](http://www.walnutfest.com).

Organizers are also selling raffle tickets to raise funds, with prices at \$5 each or six for \$25. Grand prize winner of the raffle will win two Diamond Club seats to a Reds game (right behind home plate!), along with a visit to batting practice and a baseball autographed by centerfielder Drew Stubbs. Second prize is an Apple iPad2 and third is a Kindle reader.

Organizers are still in need of gift cards for the raffle baskets, as well as additional hands to complete the work. If you can help, contact **Melissa Murphy** at [mlmurphy@fuse.net](mailto:mlmurphy@fuse.net) or **Annique Link** at [alink@cinci.rr.com](mailto:alink@cinci.rr.com).

WalnutFest is sponsored by Walnut's Parent Board, Athletic Boosters and Instrumentalists' Parents, with proceeds going to a wide number of worthy school needs.

## Legacy of Excellence campaign continues

Thank you so much to all the Class Captains, phone-a-thon volunteers and Walnut families that have contributed both time and dollars thus far, to the 2011-2012 Legacy of Excellence Campaign! Thanks to all of you, we have raised a significant amount more money for The Annual Giving campaign this year than we have in any previous year in Walnut history, but we still have a long way to go!

Each year the shortfall between the funds Walnut receives from the Cincinnati School Board and the funds we need to maintain our level of excellence increases. The only way to maintain our

outstanding programs is by raising the much-needed dollars from the Walnut Hills community.

Although covering the shortfall in funding is definitely one of our goals for the 2011-2012 school year, our loftier goal is to greatly increase Family participation in the Legacy of Excellence

We would love to see 100 percent participation in the Campaign, with no contribution being too small!

Campaign. In fact, we would love to see 100 percent participation in the Campaign, with no contribution being too small. At this point, only 10 percent of currently enrolled Walnut Hills Families have contributed. Through 100 percent participation we hope to send a powerful message of the commitment Walnut Families have to insuring and continuing the success of the

Walnut Hills academic, extracurricular and athletic programs. By all families sharing the burden, we can achieve a much more unified Walnut Family.

The Legacy of Excellence campaign runs through May. We plan on doing another round of calling in mid-March. Please consider giving a gift. We truly mean it when we say "no gift is too small," and each gift sends the message that we as parents are committed to Walnut's Legacy of Excellence!

You can contribute online on the school web site, mail a check to the school or send a check into the office with your child.

Thank you so much for your support.

*Abram and B. Gordon  
Alex Stillpass and Lisa Pennekamp  
Legacy of Excellence co-chairs*

## Walnut24 planning kicks off

Walnut24, the 24-hour-long student and family party/fundraiser will return for its third edition on Sept. 29-30. Committee members are already working on the entertainment and food lineups for this annual event. The student-designed logo competition will take place in the spring. See more details as they evolve at [www.walnut24.com](http://www.walnut24.com) or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/Walnut24](http://www.facebook.com/Walnut24).

Want to get involved? Contact event director **Doug Newberry** at [24@walnut.com](mailto:24@walnut.com). He'll be happy to give you a job!



Encourage your student to enter the competition for a 2012 Walnut24 logo.

## Student directory a work of wonder

A delayed but sincere thanks to **Renata Scanio** for her work on the WHHS school directory this year.

She took the lead role in pulling together some 2,000 lines of data — not available until enrollment is complete each year — assembling the directory and getting it to the printer.

Thanks to Renata and the folks at Krieg Printing, the directory was completed and ready for sale at the fall Open House.

*Dwight Wilson*  
CLASS OF 2012

# Class of 2012

## Senior Sendoff needs volunteers

As graduation looms for Walnut seniors, work has begun on the annual Senior Sendoff.

The event will be May 23 from 1:30 to 4 p.m., the seniors' final day at school, and include events like a senior run, cookout, jumping houses and slides, games...and much more!

Parents will be asked to help, with donations of cash and time, to make the event a success. Dad's Gone Nuts has been invited back for a repeat performance at the grills.

Parent support is needed for two reasons. Parent involvement will free teacher-advisors during critical test prep and final exam weeks. Additionally, parents' financial support will allow the class to purchase the "deluxe" graduation package at the Cintas Center. That includes the WHHS logo used in perimeter lighting, extra seating, and live video on the Jumbotron screens to capture each graduate on his or her big day. These special effects are quite dramatic and will transform the graduation experience for all.

After Spring Break, the organizing committee will put out a call for monetary support. In early May, they'll put out volunteer sign-up sheets.

With the continued help of Walnut parents, seniors' final day at school will be one to remember!

For questions, contact **Kate Law** at [klaw60@aol.com](mailto:klaw60@aol.com) or **Jenny French** at [jennyfrenchwhhs@gmail.com](mailto:jennyfrenchwhhs@gmail.com).

## Senior calendars filling up

As seniors narrow down their college options during these early 2012 weeks, they should also be mindful of other important priorities:

- **Financial aid.** Many colleges require the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by Feb. 15. More information is at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- **Scholarships.** In addition to seeking scholarships from your son or daughter's college, you can investigate options on the Walnut Web site (go to "guidance" then senior bulletin.) The Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation at [www.cincinnati-scholarshipfoundation.org](http://www.cincinnati-scholarshipfoundation.org) is also a good option.
- **Graduation gear.** Orders for caps and gowns are due Feb. 10. Seniors can order other graduation merchandise from [www.graduateserviceinc.com](http://www.graduateserviceinc.com).



## Construction remaking WHHS campus

When construction at Walnut wraps up near the end of 2013, students, staff and parents will enjoy buildings as impressive as the people who inhabit them!

Here's what to expect, according to a presentation at the Parent Board meeting in January:

- Wireless computer connections, air conditioning, new lighting and new signage throughout campus.
- A new pool with seating for 150 to 200 people.
- Overhead projectors and smart-board wiring in all classrooms.
- Additional multi-purpose and meeting rooms through the buildings.

As to the timing of the work, the lead architect reported this schedule:

- The north wing renovation is due to be completed by June.
- The new athletic and music wing should be ready by December.
- The renovation of the south wing classrooms should start at the end of this year and be complete when school resumes in August 2013.
- A cafeteria renovation, which will add a variety of table sizes and more comfortable seating for studying, should be complete by December 2013. During that work, students will use what are now the music mods for lunch bells.

Watch this newsletter and other Walnut communications for more details as they become available.

# Athletic Department

## Boys b-ball pulling down big wins

With just a handful of games to go, the boys varsity basketball team is sitting pretty in the Top 10 for Division 1 (*Cincinnati Enquirer* Coaches Poll) and holding first place for Fort Ancient Valley Conference teams.

With a 13-2 record near the end of January, the team has enjoyed a long list of kudos this season:

- **Junior Isaiah Johnson**, a 6-foot-9, 275-pound center, was featured in a 1:09-story on WLWT-TV (Channel 5) as the Primetime Performer of the Week, after he made 17 points and grabbed 17 rebounds on Dec. 2 in the team's 58-32 defeat of Purcell Marian High School. The story also included an interview with head coach **Robert Moman**, and footage of the team in action.
- **Junior Sterling Gilmore**, a 5-foot-10 160-pound guard, got attention in *The Enquirer's* coverage of Walnut's Dec. 22 win over St. Xavier High School, 56-49. Gilmore had a career-high 14 points in the game and was credited with shutting down one of St. X's top scorers.
- **Junior Kodey Jackson**, a 6-foot-6 190-pound forward, was featured on WLWT-TV as the Cincinnati Bell 4G Fastest Play of the Week, after he landed a shot at the buzzer in Walnut's Dec. 30 defeat of Turpin High School, 48-47.

Parent **Angela Gilmore** said the juniors on the team have been with the basketball program since their seventh grade years — and went undefeated as 7th- and 8th-graders.

The team is celebrating its strong season by selling yard signs that read: "A Walnut Hills High School student lives here." The \$10 signs are available at games.

## Pescovitz picks up more kudos

Senior soccer standout **Max Pescovitz** picked up another recognition in mid-January, when *The Cincinnati Enquirer* named him Division I "Player of the Year." The honor was published in the paper Jan. 19, along with a photo of Pescovitz in action last Sept. 9 when Walnut beat Milford 5-4.

With 30 goals and 14 assists this year — the most in the state — the Eagles striker was also "Player of the Year" for the Southwest

Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches' Association for Division I, and "Athlete of the Year" for Fort Ancient Valley Conference.

The varsity boys' team collected a number of other awards for their 11-4-3 season as well:

- **Eric Rothwell** was the FAVC all-conference "Coach of the Year."
- **Will Hellmich** and **Andre Lewis** made the FAVC first team, and garnered honorable mentions from *The Enquirer*.
- **Adam Brown**, **Alex Moore** and **David Wier** were second team for FAVC.
- **Max Ziemba** received a FAVC honorable mention.
- **Andre Lewis** was also recognized with an All Southwest Ohio Award by SWOSSCA, along with **Laura Rose**, a forward for the girls' varsity soccer squad. Rose's teammate, forward **Alexis Kiehl**, received an honorable mention from SWOSSCA.
- **Laura Rose** was also recognized by *The Enquirer*, making its Division 1 first team, while **Alexis Kiehl**, along with **Livi Logan**, received honorable mentions. The Lady Eagles were 12-3-3 for the season.



*Max Pescovitz was Ohio's top soccer scorer in 2011.*



*Sterling Gilmore scored 14 points against St. X. (Photo courtesy of The Cincinnati Enquirer.)*

## Pescovitz family creates scholarship

The Pescovitz family is accepting both donations and applications for The Mark Pescovitz Scholarship Fund, named for the 1974 Walnut grad who went on to become a transplant surgeon and professor at Indiana University School of Medicine. Pescovitz, uncle to current Walnut senior **Max Pescovitz** (see above), died in a car accident last December. The scholarship is aimed at students with interests in both science and the arts. For more information, visit [www.markpescovitz.com](http://www.markpescovitz.com) or [www.cincinnati-scholarship-foundation.org](http://www.cincinnati-scholarship-foundation.org). The Foundation makes a wide range of awards, with a common application due April 30.

## Swim Team welcomes alums

Over winter break the Walnut Hills Swim Team hosted the first annual Alumni vs. WHHS Swim Team swim meet. The idea was born over Thanksgiving and promoted through Facebook. The meet was a huge success and included typical events, fun races, and legacy races. Almost 20 alums attended the event and left saying they would return next year.

The competition between current and past swimmers will reconvene next year. In fact, we hope to coordinate with the Alumni Foundation to reach out to more alums.

*Sophia Melnyk  
Class of 2012*

# Library

## Library clocks 46,000 visits

The Walnut Hills High School Library continues to be a very busy place this year. From the beginning of the school through the beginning of January, more than 46,000 students have visited the library and more than 47,000 books have been checked out. We have also added more than more than 250 new books and DVDs to our collection.

The library's Used Book Sale, our major fundraiser of the year, will be May 3-4.

Many thanks to our great volunteers for helping with the library's annual inventory during exam week in December: **Lois Smith, Christine Cassidy, Nancy**

**Record, Jodie Tengen, Lori Strubbe, and Suzanne Schweller.** Because of their help, we were able to check all 20,000 volumes in the library collection in just two and a half days.

**We need your books!** The library's Used Book Sale, held each year, is our major fundraiser of the year. It will be May 3-4 this school year. We need any and all books, posters, records, CDs, sheet music, cassettes and any other media that you would like to get rid of: we would be glad to sell it! Just drop your donations off in the library or Main Office. We will be glad to write letters, on request, for tax deductions.

**We need your help!** We need volunteers to help with the used book sale this spring as well. Call 363-8416 if you are able to give a few hours at either time!

The library's Webpage continues to be updated. We have teachers' assignments and class websites, links to teacher Webpages through Homelink, links to Websites recommended by Walnut librarians and teachers, links to all our Web-based resources, and information and links about Walnut Hills organizations. Through the Webpage, we offer a number of Web-based resources for students and staff, many of which are new this year. These are:

- The Student Resource Center, a full text source for literary, social studies, and biographical information (ID:cinc 48953; Password: cinc\_log)
- NEW! Classroom Video on Demand, educational videos streamed on the web that teachers and students use for classes, research, and review. (User name:walnut, password: hills)
- Ancient World Online, with great information on ancient cultures. A great place for information for Latin projects! (User ID: walnut; password: hills)
- Newsbank Newsfile, a collection of magazine and newspaper articles fulltext on the web (Account:7675; Password:7675)
- Culture Grams, a database of information on states and countries around the world (User ID: walnut; password: eagles)

- InfoOhio Collection, web-based resources through the support of the state of Ohio, which includes the full version of Encyclopedia Britannica on the web, and SIRS and EBSCOHost collections of fulltext magazine and newspaper articles. (ID:learn; password: infohio)

The library is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every school day. Students without transportation can take the late bus at 3:40 if they need to stay after school to work on projects and may get a special late bus pass if needed from the librarians.

*Sally Barringer  
Walnut Hills library*

# Music Department

## Walnut launches 'artist-in-residence' program

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Brass Quintet performed Jan. 19 and 25 in the Walnut Hills High School auditorium as the first participants in the Music Department's new "artist-in-residence" program.

The quintet — with **Chris Kiradjieff** and **Steve Pride** on trumpet, **Charles Bell** on horn, **Pete Norton** on trombone and **Carson McTeer** on tuba — played three selections before Walnut's



*Walnut's two senior bands shared the stage with CSO musicians in January.*

Symphonic Band performed on Jan. 19 and the Wind Ensemble concert of Jan. 24. They included "Fanfare by La Peri," composed by Paul Dukas, "Conzona per Sonare No. 2" by Giovanni Gabrielli, and "Just a Closer Walk With Thee," a traditional Gospel tune.

The CSO musicians then joined Walnut students in their concerts.

The inaugural performances were just one component of a comprehensive educational

partnership with the CSO Quintet. Other responsibilities of the CSO Quintet have included weekly sessions with all levels of the band program (Beginning, Intermediate, Junior, Symphonic, and Wind Ensemble), including sectional work, class rehearsal assistance and master classes. They will be assisting our Orchestra program as well.

With the inclusion of a recital hall as part of our new music building on the horizon, we envision the beginning of a "Chamber Series" program where CSO musicians will perform in tandem with our student groups. It is our hope to not only maintain, but to expand our partnership with the CSO by including woodwind, string and percussion groups.

Initial funding for this program is being provided by the Walnut Hills Instrumentalists' Parents organization (or WHIP, the music boosters' group) and the Walnut Hills Alumni Foundation. Funding will be a key component in the sustainability of this program as the initial funders cannot continue their financial support beyond this year.

For further information about the "artist-in-residence" effort and how you can help, contact me at 363-8510 or [kruzeke@cps-k12.org](mailto:kruzeke@cps-k12.org).

*Kerry Kruze  
Music Department chair*

## WHHS students make CYSO

Walnut Hills is proud to have seven excellent musicians in the 2011-12 Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra (CYSO).

Student must audition every year, practicing nearly all summer to compete among 200 others for the 100 positions. Once accepted,

Sunday afternoons are committed to rehearsals at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. The CYSO music is challenging but the students work hard and the results are breath-taking! The CYSO — including Walnut



*The CYSO, with seven Walnut students, will perform in March.*

students **Audrey Borgert, Matthias Greinacher, Peter Phelan, Maya Sekhar, Clare Suffern, Vivian Tong and Ruolin Yang** — will perform a spring concert March 18 at 5 p.m. at CCM's Corbett Auditorium. For more information, visit <http://cincinnati-symphony.org/Content.php?id=23>

If your student is an advanced musician and is interested in auditioning next August, visit the Web site or call **Linda Louise Tong**, a member of the CYSO Parent Board, at 751-5763, for more information.

## Walnut music students busy with bookings

Vocal and instrumental students performed in a wide range of venues through the fall:

- Walnut Hills trumpeters Monroe Trombly and Paige Hoff again this year played echo taps at the Greater Cincinnati Firefighters Memorial Ceremony at the group's downtown park. They also performed at the Veteran's Day Event at the downtown public library, the "Live at Lunch" vocal series at Christ Cathedral Church downtown, and at both high school vocal concerts at Walnut Hills.
- The Senior Ensemble also performed at the Veterans Day library event, singing "The National Anthem" in four-part harmony, "America the Beautiful" and a medley of armed services songs. WHHS choirs have been featured at the event for more than a decade.



*The Senior Ensemble performed at the main library.*

- Three Walnut vocal students were among six winners in the 50th annual Vocal Scholarship Competition sponsored by the Andersen-based

women's choir, The Forestaires, in October. Soprano Katie Peters, bass Paul Linser and mezzo soprano JoEllen Pellman won for their performances, with tenor Desmond Daly named an alternate. The three winners received scholarships of up to \$450 toward private voice lessons and will be featured as solo performers in a Forestaires show in April.



*Angie Bridges, Forestaires vice president, right, congratulates Katie Peters, Paul Linser and JoEllen Pellman.*

## Jazz combo busy all fall

Walnut's jazz combo was booked solid through the fall, playing at both Walnut and community events.

The group consists of members of the jazz ensemble class including **Jonathan Webb** on piano, **Simon Dallas** on bass, **Tommy Borders** and **Darren Wethington** on drums, **Ben Brandicort** and **Carson Neff** on guitar, **Sev Sheets** on alto sax and **Donovan Martin** on tenor sax.

The combo performed for three athletic functions: the 7th and 8th grade tailgate, the Homecoming tailgate and the boy's soccer tailgate events. **Donovan Martin** also performed the "Star Spangled Banner" at the boy's soccer tournament game.

In the community, the group performed Oct. 15 at the second annual "East Price Hill Improvement Associations Jazz Festival" at Dempsey Park along with local trumpeter Mike Wade and the Cincy Brass.

Also, for the fourth year in a row, the combo performed for the community improvement group "WIN" (Working In Neighborhoods) at Paul Brown Stadium on Nov. 15. They also played at Joseph Beth Bookstore in Rookwood during the holiday season for a WHIP fundraising event.

## WHIP fills the house for Gay Bingo

Walnut parents turned up in beads and masks Jan. 26 at Gay Bingo at the Cabaret at Below Zero lounge downtown, with the admission



WHIP officers Linda Tong, Penny Poirier and Amanda O'Bannon celebrated Mardi Gras at Gay Bingo.

price going to support music at Walnut.

The event, organized by Walnut Hills Instrumental Parents (WHIP), included food, drink, basket raffles – and lots of laughs as emcee-in-drag Empress Brooklyn called the numbers.

WHIP officer **Linda Tong** offered a pre-event endorsement: “Haven’t laughed so hard while playing Bingo ever! Loved how Brooklyn picked on our table of old ladies!”

Added **Cassandra**

**Clement**, president of the Parent Board: “Where else can you grab your dauber and play bingo with drag queens?”

# Beyond the Classroom

## Math Team students place in two competitions

Seventeen Math Team students attended the Rose Hulman Math Competition Nov. 12, with the following students scoring in the



Math Team students scored well at Rose Hulman.

Top 10: **Katie Williams**, third among 12th grade girls; **Lucy Hattemer**, fourth among 11th grade girls; **Echo Wen**, sixth among 12th grade girls; **Amy Mays**, eighth among

12th grade girls; **Sven Knobloch**, ninth among 9th grade boys; **Isaac Shapiro**, seventh among 10th grade boys; and **Max Holden**, seventh among 11th grade boys.

Additionally, **Sven Knobloch**, **Amy Mays**, **Josh Mansfield** and **Kaelyn Willingham** attended the Math Contest at Miami University in Oxford on Nov. 19, with Josh placing ninth in the individual competition.

*Susan Cantey  
Math Team Coach*

## Ninth-grader wins HM for photo

**Grant Eaton**, ninth grade, entered the “Go Wild” Teen Photography Contest at the Cincinnati Public Library as part of his



Grant Eaton photographed a Wyoming landscape.

Photography I class with Walnut art teacher **Don Stocker**. Competing against students from all across the city, he was awarded Honorable Mention for his photo taken in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

## Duo performs at Music Hall

Walnut Hills junior **Peter Phalen**, on cello, and sophomore **John Simerlink**, on piano, provided chamber music and solos at Music Hall in September as part of the pre-concert entertainment for the “John Morris Russell Inaugural Pops” concert. The duo also provided

background music for the Walnut Hills Open Parent Open House this past August.

## Juniors help 'Raise CAIN'

Walnut Hills juniors **Maya Daly** and **Amy Manning** lined up to “Raise CAIN to Make A Difference” behind Celina Junker from McAuley High School.

Walnut Sophomore **Eddy Atkinson** joined the trio as volunteer servers for a ribs-fest dinner and concert to benefit Churches Active In Northside, in honor of its 20th anniversary as a non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance to vulnerable families in the 45223 ZIP code.



CAIN helps families in the 45223 ZIP code.

## Plays and drums up next in Fine Arts

Check your calendar to make sure it includes the three next productions in Fine Arts:

“**The Crucible**” runs Feb. 16-17 in the small theater. Shows start at 7:30 p.m.

“**Once Upon A Mattress**,” the junior high musical, runs March 1-3 in the auditorium. Shows are at 7:30 p.m.

**African Drum and Dance Ensemble** is March 16 in the auditorium, with a 7 p.m. show.