



IN THE

The Newsletter for

the Union County Academy for the Performing Arts Parent Teacher Student Organization

SPECIAL

October
2009



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The month of September has flown by and Fall is already here. We hope that the students have fallen into a comfortable routine and are enjoying their studies at UCAPA. The freshmen attended their Orientation/Mixer at Kean on September 18th. Back to School night was well attended. The PTSO Committee Coordinators would like to thank ALL of you that signed up to assist them in the coming months. If you did not have a chance to sign up for a committee and are interested in doing so, please contact the committee coordinator directly and have your name added to the list.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our UCAPA newsletter.

Principal's Message

Greetings,

We are off to a great start –the freshmen are acclimating very well and the sophomores have hit the ground running. Our new facility is on schedule to be completed in June, 2010. However, as we await this exciting moment, we are not slowing down one bit!!! On September 18th, the entire APA freshmen class attended their first UCAPA at Kean experience. After some fun icebreakers aimed at meeting the Kean faculty, students took a tour of the Kean University campus. The students also participated in 2 Master Classes: A Theatre Class, run by Rachel Evans and a Funk Jazz Dance Class run by Dawud Jackson. The day started and ended with rousing renditions of "Don't Stop Believing" from Journey on the bus ride! Needless to say, the first trip to Kean was a success and a great experience for all!

Continued on page 2

PTSO President's Message

Hope everyone enjoyed a restful summer. I'd like to welcome our incoming freshmen, and of course, welcome back our sophomores also. Last year was a great year for our students, and I expect this one to be even better! Last year was chock full of activities and fund raisers that benefited our students and I am very thankful for everyone that participated in our endeavors. I'd also like to thank our staff, teachers, and Mr. Rubin for supporting us throughout the year. I'd like to thank Dr. Bistocchi for his vision that made our school a reality. If you haven't yet done so, please join our great organization. I look forward to working with each and every one of you!

PTSO members will also have access to our Yahoo group, so you don't miss out on what's going on in our APA community. Don't forget to check out the events at the end of the newsletter. We are always looking for volunteers to help. If all of us work together, we can provide the most enriching experience for our kids during their high school years that they will remember for a lifetime.

Andria G. Kiel,
PTSO President

PTSO Meeting Dates

- October 6th
- November 10th

Just in time for Fall Cleaning!

UCAPA Clothing Drive
SATURDAY, October 3rd
12:00 – 3:00 pm

Drop off in side UCVTS side parking lot
Turn your unwanted clothes, linens, towels, purses, shoes, stuffed animals, and toys into COLD HARD CASH for UCAPA. NO HANGERS will be accepted. The company will offer UCAPA 13-15 cents per pound. We will be calling on volunteers to help unload cars as they pull through the line and at the end of the day to help load up the truck. Please consider helping out for an hour or two. More hands will make for a lighter job. Students and parents are welcome. Spread the word to friends and family.

Principal's Message (continued) On October 3rd, we are very excited to be a part of Encore! A Kean Theatre Retrospective: A celebration of theatre at Kean University featuring Kean students: past, present and future. It will be a very nice experience for our students and a nice way to show support for a partner who does so much for our program and your children. In fact, we are in the process of choosing dates with Kean faculty for upcoming Master Classes in the areas of technical theatre and costuming, among others. Additionally, Kean and APA are working on the implementation of a vocal master class program that would take place throughout the year.

The Union County Vocational-Technical School district strives to find innovative tools to support student success and to develop strong school/family partnerships. Following in this tradition, in a few weeks, we will open the Parent Portal in our PowerSchool student management system. The Parent Portal is an internet-based tool. It will provide parents an opportunity to view individual student information, such as attendance, course assignments and grades. In addition to information posted on teacher staff pages, the Parent Portal will help increase communication in order to support student achievement. Please also keep in mind that faculty information can be found on our website at www.ucvts.tec.nj.us. Note that each faculty e-mail address has the same naming convention: first initial of the first name + last name (i.e. srubin@ucvts.tec.nj.us) Don't ever hesitate to contact a faculty member if you have any comments, questions, and/or concerns.

Furthermore, I urge you to continue to support your children by encouraging them to take advantage of extra-assistance options. Along with visiting teachers during co-curricular, peer tutoring is available. Ask your child to contact his / her teacher for more details -it works!

Getting involved in the community is so important. As such, every student is encouraged to complete a total of 40 hours of community service while attending the Union County Academy for Performing Arts. Twenty hours should be completed by the end of the sophomore year and the remainder before graduation. These hours should be fulfilled with at least two different community service activities. Service logs are located in the main office. Please remind your child to submit a log to Ms. Josephine Scasso, the APA school counselor, upon the completion of each activity.

Finally, please be sure to support the APA-PTSO parent association. They are an amazing group who work tirelessly to support the children and the school -I urge you to get involved!!

Don't ever hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/ or concerns. As you have heard me say many times before, we build this program together!

Sincerely,
Scott Rubin



Social Committee

"Meet & Greet"

**Thursday, October 29th
7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Bistocchi Hall

Please join us for an informal coffee & dessert night to get to know the parents/guardians of your children's new friends. As our kids are developing new relationships, this is a great opportunity for all of us to meet and get to know one another as well. Also, you may have questions for sophomore parents and what they experienced their first year. Hope to see you all there!

Bring along a dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions dee1234@aaa.com or 908-555-5555.

Thanks, Diane McLaughlin



Staff Appreciation Committee

Check back here next month for announcements regarding the holiday Staff Appreciation Event. If you have any questions or want to join the Staff Appreciation Committee, contact Suehay Monge at suehaymonge@yahoo.com or 908-555-5555.



Student Performance Committee

The Student Performance Committee is looking for a chairperson responsible for coordinating parent volunteers for the dance performances as well as a chairperson for the theater performances. We are also in need of parents willing to help in many capacities for the individual performances held throughout the year. Interested parents can also call Berta Bermudez 908-444-4444 or email (bbaaaaa@aaa.com)



PTSO Membership/ Directory

It's not too late to join the APA PTSO (Parent Teacher Student Organization). The cost per family is \$15 for a one-year membership, or \$50 for four years. Members in good standing will receive the PTSO newsletter, the UCAPA newsletter, the electronic Student Directory, have access to the PTSO Yahoo! Group (through which all the aforementioned items will be sent out), and are eligible to chair or co-chair a committee. Also, only paid PTSO members are permitted to run for or hold an executive board position. (We will be electing new officers at the end of this school year!)

We are striving for 100% membership between both the 2012 and 2013 classes so everyone will be on the same page regarding school news and PTSO-sponsored events.

Once you join, you will receive an invitation via email to join the APA PTSO Yahoo! Group, which we intend to use as our sole method of communication this year. Please respond to the invitation as soon as possible so you don't miss any news or information. If you cannot attend PTSO meetings, you will be able to read meeting minutes via the Yahoo! Group and keep up with all we are trying to accomplish for our children.

Please call Noreen Romano at 908-555-2222 with any questions or concerns. A membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter; please make your check out to "UCAPA PTSO." Your child can bring the form and payment to the APA office in Baxel Hall, or you can mail it to Noreen at 161 Some Street, Some Park NJ 07004.

Recycling

UCAPA recycles...do you? We are collecting printer cartridges, toner cartridges and old cell phones to raise funds for UCAPA. There is a box in the breezeway. Please send all items in a Ziploc bag.

Fundraising

Thanks to all of you that purchased an Entertainment Book at Back to School night. We are well on our way to receiving the maximum return from the company. Don't forget to mention it to all of your family and friends and ask them to purchase a book as well. Orders are being taken for any county in New Jersey.

Costume Committee

Calling All Needlesmiths!

The Costume Committee needs you! If you can sew, own a sewing machine or are interested in costume design and/or helping create a costume library for the APA, contact Wendy Sheridan at voxwoman@gmail.com or call 732-555-5555. Parents and students welcome



SCRIP

Support UCAPA by taking advantage of the SCRIP Program

Fall is in the air...does that make you start to think about..

...the upcoming holiday season?

...fall cleaning and possibly re-decorating?

...or a new wardrobe for the cooler temps?

If you answered YES to any of those questions, why not consider buying gift cards through SCRIP and see how much your purchase can do for UCAPA?

There are many major retailers and restaurants participating in SCRIP. Orders will be processed the last Friday of the month for the remainder of the school year, but you can place your order at any time during the month. The order will go into a "holding pattern" until you send payment in. Once your payment has cleared your order will be released and processed. Check out SHOPWITHSCRIP.COM for a complete listing of participating vendors and instructions to place your order. Or click on the link on the UCAPA site or yahoo group site to print a manual order form.

If you are still unclear about the program or need another copy of the outline and ordering instructions, both are posted on the UCAPA website and the YAHOO GROUP website.

Did you know?

- The fitness center is open Monday through Thursday. Students can work out in the fitness center in Mancuso Hall from 3:00 PM until 4:30 PM
- The Multi Media Center in Bistocchi Hall is open Monday through Thursday from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM. Please make sure students are picked up PROMPTLY at 5:00 PM!
- Intramurals have started. Be on the lookout for updates in future newsletters.
- Yearbook pictures will be taken on October 28th.
- Theatre Majors (both Sophomore and Freshmen) will be attending a field trip to Kean on November 13, 2009 to see a production of Twelfth Night.
- A dance-related field trip is in the works for Dance Majors (both Sophomore and Freshmen) on November 13, 2009. Complete details will follow in the coming weeks.

A few last minute reminders:

- The Tricky Tray originally scheduled for November 13th has been postponed. Watch for new date to be announced in upcoming newsletters.
- Students interested in helping out at the October Information Sessions should sign up with Mr. Rubin in the APA Main Office.
- Don't forget the clothing drive on Saturday, October 3rd. We will be taking donations of used clothing, linens, towels, pocket books, shoes, belts, stuffed animals, and toys. No hangers please. Drop off will be in the side parking lot of UCVTS. Volunteers are needed to help unload cars and load the truck at the end of the day. Contact Betty Fernandez if you are interested in helping at this event.
- There is a PTSO Membership & Directory Form at the end of this newsletter if you still need to join the group.

October Issue Credits

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Days of Note

- **October 3**
APA Clothing Drive 12:00 – 2:45 PM
ENCORE! A Kean Theatre Retrospective rehearsal 10:00 – 11:00 AM
call time 6:00 PM
performance 7:00 PM
- **October 6**
PTSO Meeting 7:00 PM, Baxel Hall
HSPA
- **October 7, 8**
HSPA
- **October 10**
Harvest Festival
Information Session 9:00 AM, Bistocchi Hall
- **October 12**
Interim Reports Due
- **October 13, 14, 15**
HSPA Makeup
- **October 14**
PSAT
- **October 16**
Hoops for Hunger Bistocchi Gymnasium
- **October 26**
Board of Education Meeting 6:00 PM
- **October 28**
Information Session 6:30 PM Baxel Hall
- **October 29**
Meet & Greet 7:00 – 9:00 PM Bistocchi Hall
- **October 30**
Junior Dance 7:00 PM Bistocchi Hall