

Dear Friends,

We would like to take a moment to thank all of you who have contributed so much to the effort to raise funds for the program and provide our students an opportunity to support the music program by working at the Redskins football games this year. We recognize the amazing sacrifice that everyone has made to help us provide the finest possible experience for our band and choir members by having the means to purchase and maintain concert and marching uniforms as well as music and instruments needed for our ensembles.

So far this year we have purchased a new drumset, guitar amp, bass amp and electric bass for the Jazz Ensemble. We are going to purchase a new string bass for the string ensemble this spring as well as a batch of new music stands to replace old ones that are no longer useable. These funds also underwrite some of the \$3,000 to \$5,000 we spend each year on newly published music and replace missing parts and scores to existing music in our library.

A special thanks to Scott Semple and Bert Kramer who have piloted this effort since its beginning. Sadly, for us, this was Bert's last year with us as he is leaving the area for a new job this spring. Without him, we would not have had this chance because his brother Pete was our connection to FedEx from the beginning and both Bert and Pete, along with Scott, have been the heart and soul of this operation. So, thanks Bert and Pete for your incalculable contribution to our student's experience. You have both been such a positive and loving example of what Good Counsel stands for. I know the band and choir members have been watching you and have learned how to contribute to the community in such a wonderful way from your extraordinary example.

Also, we cannot overlook the amazing and dedicated work of John Fanelli, our technical advisor, Webmaster, genius scheduler, organizer of carpools, photographic reporter for the trips and many other activities along the way. He has worked tirelessly for years mostly behind his Blackberry on our behalf. His ability to keep the sign-up lists and credit-award system straight and accurate boggles the mind. He is another shining example of our GC family who gives until it hurts. Unfortunately, his son, Anthony, is graduating this year and John will probably be dedicating his wizardry to another very lucky great cause. This means we will need to identify new people to help us with the website and the FedEx records as well as the many other details John has taken care of for us. If you are interested in learning the ropes and willing to help out please contact us in the music office and we will connect you with John for more information.

Scott has promised to continue to help manage our FedEx booths, but we need to get new volunteers to assume some of the responsibility. It is not a one-person job. Please consider helping us next year by learning how to manage the booths and assume some of the work for this very important part of our program.

We cannot say thank you loud enough. The loving, good person, even alone, does make a difference.

Stan Spottswood, Brett Taylor, and Richard Slocum