

Class of 2012 cap and gown orders coming next week

Seniors, it's your time to shine this year as graduation creeps closer and closer. While it may only be just the start of December, every member of the Class of 2012 needs to remember that June isn't that far away. With that in mind the time has come for ordering caps and gowns for the big day at the end of June. Cap and gown order days are Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7 during all lunch bells right at G. Ray Bodley High School.

There are three packages to choose from;

Silver, Gold, and Platinum. With each package students can choose one free pullover, or zip-up hoodie to show pride in the senior class. A \$50 deposit is required for orders over \$50. Orders less than \$50 need to be paid in full at the time of ordering. Checks should be made out to Jostens.

Ordering as soon as possible will help seniors get one less thing off of their backs, and they can save anywhere from \$60-\$240 depending on the package! As for any late orders, they will only be accepted by mail

only up to 14 days after the original order date. After that, students can order an announcement package if they go to Jostens' late order program, and the cost will increase.

Seniors are reminded to be sure to double check their orders to make sure they have everything they would like and that the boxes are filled out with the appropriate things. Also, when totaling prices, be sure to add \$5.30 for shipping and handling fees.

By Natasha Luis

THE **Raider**



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Players seek a hit with Damn Yankees

By Vanessa Langdon

Through hard work the Quirk's Players have scraped together enough money to put on their annual spring musical, and anticipation of the announcement was feverish among members of the G. Ray Bodley High School Dramas Club.

The show was announced to an eager audience at a drama club meeting held after school on November 21 in the chorus room. Director Mr. Briggs, Assistant Director Mr. Lescarbeau and Musical Director Mr. Nami toyed with all those eager to find out which show the Players would be tackling by first having the students "choose" their show out of seven possible choices. The choices were *Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, *Mame*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, or *Anything Goes*. After a vote, Mr. Lescarbeau unveiled the true show to be, the baseball-themed musical, *Damn Yankees*.

The meeting went on to reveal in full detail what will occur if someone is interested in being involved with the production. One of the main things driven home by Mr. Briggs was the addition of a dance aspect. *Damn Yankees* will have special dance auditions on Tuesday, December 7 in the auditorium from 3:30 until Mrs. Forbes, the choreographer, is finished. Perspective dancers should be ready to start the audition by 3:30 and need to be in appropriate attire. There

will not be solo dance performances in the audition.

On top of the dance auditions there will be the standard audition by appointment only. The character auditions, will entail the reciting of a monologue from memory that can be chosen in the library from Mrs. Scalfaro starting today, singing a song to later be disclosed by Mr. Nami, and one cold reading from the script to be passed out at the audition time. Ensemble and Character auditions will be on Wednesday, December 7, Thursday, December 8, Tuesday, December 13, and finally Wednesday, December 14 (12/7, 8, 13, 14). Students are urged to sign up for their audition with Mr. Nami in the chorus room.

If someone wishes to only be considered for an ensemble role they still need to sign up for an audition with Mr. Nami, but instead of signing up for an individual time they will simply sign up for one of the predetermined ensemble audition spots. Ensemble auditions will include vocal range testing and singing with a group. Whether aiming for the lead role or an ensemble role, sign up for the audition with Mr. Nami in the chorus room beginning Wednesday, November 30.

Do note that once a person signs up for their audition time it is set in stone there are no changes, so students are urged to really think before they sign up and to make sure

they are able to commit to the six-day rehearsals. For anyone interested in working tech crew for the musical, they too have to apply for a crew position during the audition dates/times. An important thing to consider when debating whether or not to participate are spring sport try-outs. The moving of spring break led to the show being moved up a bit so that production week falls during spring sports tryouts. So if interested in a spring sport, be sure to talk to the coach now to make arrangements to try out as students will NOT be allowed to miss rehearsal to do so.

For those lucky enough to be chosen for the cast of *Damn Yankees* there is a lot of work involved! Rehearsals are five days a week, Monday through Saturday with either afternoon rehearsals (2:45-6pm) or evening rehearsals (6-9pm) and on Saturdays 9:30 am to 2 pm. Be warned that during production week rehearsals can run as late as 11 pm, but no later than that. The first rehearsals for those lucky enough to be joining Director Mr. Briggs will be on Monday, December 19 with the snow date set for Tuesday, December 20. The first rehearsal is one which all members will need to attend.

The end result of all those tireless rehearsals will be on display for all to see Thursday, March 8 and Friday, March 9 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, March 10 at 2 and 7:30

(continued on page four)

Opinion

Agendas: helpful, or a waste of money?

By Vanessa Langdon

Agendas are a useful resource that the Fulton City School District provides free to all high school students. But are they worth the \$10 thousand price tag? Are the students using them to their full potential?

A recent survey of the students at G. Ray Bodley High School showed that for the most part, the agendas are not used, except for the beloved passes.

In a recent survey of students, less than half of them, 45% said that they use their agendas to keep track of their homework assignments. The other students surveyed admitted that they do not use their agendas for homework assignments, which is a major purpose behind the agendas.

Similar results were shown when that same pool of students were asked whether or not they thought the purchasing of agendas was a good use of the districts money as 41% of students said yes and 59% said that they do not believe the purchasing of agendas is a good use of district money.

The third and final question on the survey pertained to whether the students would be opposed to NOT receiving an agenda next year, to which 16 students said they would be opposed to NOT receiving an agenda next year while 40 students would not miss agendas if they were to not receive one next school year.

These results are hardly a surprise as students are frequently seen without agendas, or if they have their agendas they have ripped out all of the pages except for the monthly pass pages. Passes were mentioned numerous times in the comment section of the survey, and the students were alarmed at the prospect of losing the passes. Perhaps they thought the school was adapting a new policy of locking students into the classrooms, but that is not the case.

The comments were a strong display of the divide between students on the issue of agendas. They are either loved or hated. The surveys were returned with such homophobic comments as "there gay" with the wrong from of "their;" and an obscenity laced comment of "*&^% agendas they suck *&^%." These comments, while rude and disrespectful comments, got their point across; they do not see the need for agendas and unfortunately they are not the minority. But the other side of the story was also seen in comments such as, "They are useful to many and good use of planning...I love



them...I need it,...I cannot function without my agenda!," and "If you use it, it does help."

Senior Ross Maxams' opinion on agendas that, "Some people use them a lot, I do not even know where mine is," truly shows that everyone is aware that agendas are a divisive resource and that maybe there should be a new policy instituted to reduce cost and waste. Perhaps having a sign-up sheet at the end of a school year for the next year would be one viable option so that agendas would not be purchased for students who would not use them. Or perhaps another solution is to not provide agendas at all, as the students who are avid users would simply purchase their own.

Assistant principal Mr. Greene provided information on what the school is doing about the agenda issue. Mr. Greene stated that they are in fact looking into alternatives to the agendas already in place to reduce costs. Two possibilities are either, "selling advertisements in the agendas to help pick up some of the cost, or starting to make the agendas in house."

Mr. Greene noted that next years agendas will most definitely be radically different from the previous ones as they have previously been purchased with state and federal government textbook money that was recently determined can no longer be used for the purchase of agendas, as someone decided that they do not fit the criteria of a textbook. New state guidelines that Mr. Greene could not even summarize because they are, "very lengthy and laid out with required information," will also affect the agendas for next year and years to come.

Reporter's notes: In writing this article I learned the importance of getting the true facts before judging. I was ready to write a scathing article about the large amount of money, 10 thousand dollars annually, spent on something that is not used by students. But now I know, as do all of you reading this, that the administration is looking into other ways to still offer organizational tools to students but at a cheaper cost.

Hopefully those who use their agendas and reap the benefits will rub off on their less organized counterparts so that the agendas that are provided for us will be put to good use and perhaps they can be changed so that the district is not spending as much money for them.

Either way agendas are a good tool that I am sure if people used would see the benefits of being able to check off a completed task. Mr. Greene, who said he schedules his day with his online calendar, attested to the feeling of, "a weight being lifted off a person's shoulder upon completion of each task."



Reflections

-THE- Salon & More

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Guidance financial aid night set for December 8

The Guidance Department of G. Ray Bodley High School, Fulton City School District, will again host their annual "Financial Aid Night" for students and their parents or guardians on Thursday, December 8 at 7 pm in the high school auditorium.

Becoming acquainted with the various source of financial assistance and understanding the processes and deadlines for

applying will assure the timely submission of appropriate forms and greatly enhance the probability of receiving financial aid.

A representative from the financial aid office at the State University of New York at Oswego will present the information about the types and sources of financial aid available to undergraduate students and familiarize attendees with the federal and state form

needed to apply. Informative handouts will be available to those who attend.

All high school students and their parents or guardians are invited, but this very important information will be of particular interest to seniors and their parents or guardians.

The snow date is Wednesday, December 14 at 7 pm.

Focusing in on the moving target

By Madeline Clark

Ask a question, and sometimes you will get the answer. After a recent opinion column bemoaning the school's internet filtering process and a request to find out some answers, Ms. Stephanie Maturo, Director of the Fulton City School District's Technology Department, came forth to set things straight. She wants to let the student body know exactly what is going on with the web filters. She also wants everyone to understand the truth about censorship in the district.

Ms. Maturo came ready to answer questions, armed with a folder filled with materials needed to inform *RaiderNet Daily* just what was up with the universally misunderstood web filters. Starting off with a simple question, "How do you determine what is appropriate for school access?" she responded that there are multiple guidelines for the web filter. According to Maturo, the Technology Department must consider the bandwidth that is shared between all the buildings within the district; it must be distributed equally, not just to the high school, but to all six schools.

Ms. Maturo also shared the fact that sites with virus risks must also be avoided. This could be anything from Trojan viruses down to a cookie. But what was perhaps the biggest factor in internet blockage was the school's compliance with the FCC's CIPA (the Children's Internet Protection Act). This federal law was enacted to address concerns about access to offensive content over the internet on schools and library computers.

The Tech department must be in agreement with CIPA, to receive a continuation of funding and to be on par with the law. Therefore a number of sites, like the ever popular and beloved Facebook, are blocked.

So how does some inappropriate material slip through the cracks? According to Ms. Maturo, the filters work through a system programed to recognize pigments, patterns and colors. Because the categories in which sites are categorized are so vast, it is possible for some adult content web material to make it onto your monitor. The contracted company's program covers a lot of ground through a technical lens, making it difficult to tie up all loose ends, but for the most part, with the aid of the tech department, you can count on a Google image search being appropriate 90% of the time.

And as for the oh so mysterious "Passed" category that throws researching students for a loop? Ms. Maturo broke the process down. "Passed" simply means this: a site or image has been passed through a profile for censored material, but for other reasons, many of which have been stated earlier, has been

blocked from the pupil's pupils.

For anyone who has an issue with the school district's web censors, Ms. Maturo invites concerned students and parents to contact the Technology Department at the school district's website, under the technology office. If a student has a concern, she also encourages them to communicate with teachers who are in contact with the Technology Department on a fairly regular basis. So before you go and blame IT, think about your burdens on the district's most critical sector, how you affect them as opposed to how they affect you.

For Ms. Maturo, the biggest issue is finding a balance; especially with high school students. Students must keep in mind that there is a difference between domestic and educational internet usage. Thousands of pages are added to the school's access each day, so most resources should be at your disposal. As Ms. Maturo eloquently put it, "It's a moving target," internet access in the schools is an ever changing entity. It is constantly moving forward.

Damn Yankees

(from page 1)

pm. If any students are interested in being involved with the Spring Musical, *Damn Yankees*, but were unable to attend the Nov. 21 meeting, they can pick up an informational packet containing audition details, show synopsis, production dates, a list of characters and other useful information from Mr. Nami in the chorus room.



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GRB Music Dept. well represented at fest

The Zone 4 Area All-State Festival for the Fulton candidates on November 19 was a success. The performances, which took place at Ilion High School, were outstanding, and everyone seemed to have a great time. The group arrived in Herkimer around on Friday afternoon to check in to the Herkimer Motel. After stopping for lunch, they commenced rehearsal time that lasted from 2-7 (with breaks and dinner).

Afterwards, the group headed out for dinner and socialized before returning to the motel. The next day, after breakfast, the students worked on their songs for a final time before the concert started at 3 pm, which was changed from 2 o'clock. Everything went well and there were no problems.

Janelle Tallents, tenor saxophone player for the band, commented, "I had fun. I wish other people would want to do things like this more often because it really is a great experience."

Also taking part from GRB were Danielle Rupert and Emma Belcher on clarinet, Nick Abelgore on trombone, Kyle Loftus on bass clarinet, violinist Breanne Jackowski and oboe player Julia Spier. Chorus members were Alexis Pawlewicz, Nate Hawthorne, Eva Jones, Amanda Trombly and Nate Deavers.

This coming weekend is the 2011 Winter All-State Conference, which is being held in Rochester. The conference features a variety of musical groups, including choirs, orchestras, jazz ensembles, and bands. Nick Abelgore will be the first musician attending Conference All-State from G. Ray Bodley High School in over ten years where he will be playing first trombone for the symphonic band. Seating auditions will be taking place upon arrival. The symphonic band concert takes place Sunday morning at 10 am, one of the last of the concerts in the series.

By Nick Abelgore

Senior poll, directory forms due by Dec. 9

Members of the Class of 2012 are reminded that their senior poll and directory forms need to be turned in by Friday, Dec. 9 by 2:30 pm. Forms are available from homeroom teachers, through the main office, or from Mr. Senecal before and after school in room 102. Forms may be returned to Mr. Senecal or through Senior Class President Jeanette Bartlett.



The G. Ray Bodley High School Music Department was well represented at the recent Area All-State concert on November in Ilion. Pictured from left to right are (seated) Janelle Tallents, Emma Belcher, Alexis Pawlewicz, Amanda Trombly, Eva Jones and Danielle Rupert. Standing are Nick Abelgore, Julia Spier, Kyle Loftus, Breanne Jackowski, Nate Hawthorne and Nate Deavers. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Nami)



Senior Ashley Hamm is all smiles as she gives "the gift of life" at last Tuesday's blood drive at the high school. Sponsored by the G. Ray Bodley High School Student Senate, the drive brought 90 people through the door during a busy day before the Thanksgiving break. (Tony Torrese photo)

Get the whole picture!

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Who do you think will be the most successful winter sports team?



"I'm all about the contact sports, so hockey all the way."
Mrs. Hawley



"Boy's basketball."
Brian Hudson



"Hockey."
Kayla Distin



"Girl's basketball"
Shaun O'Connor

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