November 26, 2013 Avon Marching Black and Gold celebrated fall band awards. During the evening, Avon Band Together presented Mr. Webb with a check for $10,000 to purchase new instruments to replace well-worn school instruments. Some of the band’s instruments are 20 years old. Members of Band Together Board present were John Sparzo, Beckie Agnew, Kelly Gerboth, Erinn Owen, Barb Doll and Jane Pfaffenberger.

Shortly after receiving the money, Mr. Webb contacted Mr. Huffman, our World Drumline director. He researched and was able to purchase two Adams Marimbas. The students are just starting to learn how to play these. They are excited about having new instruments to use.

Continuing your membership is so important, but BT still needs to grow. Help us recruit new members – alumni and grandparents are ideal new recruits. Please forward this newsletter to friends and family and encourage them to join you in supporting the band.
Last year, Band Together purchased and donated two trumpets to the Marching Black & Gold - where are they now? Senior Amelia Scanland has been playing one of the Band Together trumpets this past marching season and will continue to do so for the remainder of the school year.

Amelia started playing trumpet in the fourth grade, in Alaska. Her family moved to Avon in the sixth grade. Throughout her high school years, she has performed with the Wind Ensemble, brass choir and jazz band and has always participated in solo and ensemble competitions.

This past fall it was announced that Amelia was a recipient of the US Army All American Marching Band Award. Of the hundreds of applicants from around the country, she was one of the 125 students selected to perform at the US Army All American Football half-time show in San Antonio, Texas on Saturday, January 4. Amelia describes her week in San Antonio as a few busy times of rehearsing and fun. She had a great time, identifying the best part as meeting so many different directors and students from around the country.

Amelia was also nominated and selected to be part of a Ball State honor band earlier this school year. She received the music several weeks prior to the event, then in mid-December spent a weekend at Ball State rehearsing before the performance on Sunday. Ms. Scanland was also selected to participate in the Music for All Honor Orchestra.

In addition to music, Amelia is a member of the Avon High School swim team. After graduation, she plans to continue in music, studying education or music performance.
As our family waited in the Avon High School band room for the arrival of the newly crowned state marching band champions, my wife and I prattled on with other parents, reveling in the excitement of the moment and soaking in the meaning of a 10th state championship. Like so many other families and friends, we stood on the sidewalk beaming, clapping and chanting as the buses arrived: showing our appreciation of the Black & Gold’s achievement.

While funneling back into the band room with the others, our wry 12 year old quipped, “Did you know if you look up the word ‘vicarious’ in the dictionary, there is a picture of a band parent?”

In some ways, his observation is correct. It is difficult to avoid getting caught up in the emotion of the band season. Our family’s day-to-day rhythm is tied to the band’s schedule for 6 grueling months. We sympathize with our daughter as she suffers in the heat or juggles her marching practices with her school projects and exam preparations. And, we surge with excitement and joy when we see another beautiful show come together. It’s hard not to feel a tinge of pride in our daughter, her friends, the band itself...and even the school and the community...when the band does well.

However, for the most part, my wife and I are not unlike other band parents: we are selflessly devoted to supporting our daughter, not for secondary gain, but because we realize that band is important. Simply put: band matters. The band program impacts 275 of Avon’s youth, enriching their high school experience and preparing them for successes in later life. Recently, Band Together asked parents how the Avon Band program had impacted their sons and daughters.

Here are a few comments they shared:

“The Band has instilled confidence in all of my kids. The dedication, teamwork, and learning to work hard have been great life lessons.”

“Avon is a big school, and to keep from getting lost in the crowd, you must find a place to belong. The [band] is where you make friends, make memories, enjoy successes, and build character and discipline.”

“My oldest daughter is a double major in molecular biology and pre-vet medicine. She herself has said that she could never have managed her educational load and succeeded if it weren’t for the great skills band taught her. My youngest has asthma and, as a freshman, could barely make it across the field. Four years later, she has bloomed socially and is now off her daily asthma medications. Band has helped her become strong, healthy and vibrant.”

In honoring the positive influence that the program has on Avon’s kids, Band Together has christened this and future editions of our newsletter, Band Matters. In 2014, articles will address some of the influences in more detail, examining data on how performing arts programs impact academic achievement and evidence about the health benefits of band participation.

Our 12 year old is generally clever and his comment about the vicarious pleasure and pride that band parents experience clearly has a ring of truth. While his observations are not always correct, they are often enjoyable nonetheless. A recent doozy: “I think I could be a school counselor. Basically all you have to do is walk around during lunch.”

--John Sparzo
Band Together President
A SPECIAL FAMILY INTERVIEW

There are a lot of kids and special families in our Avon Band Program. Five of those kids have been named Eickhoff. Since 2000 the Eickhoffs have supported the Avon Band program and helped it become the program that it is. Here is a little insight from Mike Eickhoff (Dad), into what has made the Avon Marching Black and Gold so important to this special family.

When did you and Joyce first get involved in band?
We moved to Avon in spring of 2000 when Alex was a freshman. Since we came from the Ben Davis area, a 3 year high school at the time, Alex didn't march the fall of his freshman year. That made fall of 2000 our first year as a band family.

What years were you and Joyce involved with Avon MB and what positions did you hold on the board?
Early in our band family days, Donavan & Evan were preschool & elementary age so Joyce stayed home with them while I went to work as a volunteer. After year 1, I joined the board as VP & concession chairman under Kim Woodward and did that for 2 seasons. The school was still in major growth mode so the concessions were probably 1/2 the job it is today.

Following that, I served 1 year as Co-President with Angie Lofton, then changed to Fundraising chairman and continued in that spot another 3-4 years. I officially had 1 year off after son #3-Clayton graduated and #4-Donavan was still an 8th grader. We didn't get that year off from marching band, however, because Donavan volunteered to be a clock-pusher for "Against the Clock" in '07. The next year when Donavan became a freshman I came back on the board as a member at large for 2 or 3 more years.

Joyce, although supportive all along, actually served only 1 year on the board as a member-at-large 3 or 4 years ago.

Your fondest memory(s) of band.
There are actually so many great memories I can only narrow them down. My personal favorites are the first time we won a State Championship - class B in 2001 then 2 weeks later being named to Grand National finals for the very first time. Also winning first year in Class A (2003) was a huge thrill. And finally winning Grand Nationals in 2008 ranks right up there, too, especially since that season we had just lost State for the first time in 7 years.

How did your sons participate in band?
Alex - Trumpet player that switched to tuba for 3 years, both marching and concert band.
Bart - 4 years as tenor sax in concert band but marched tuba his junior and senior years.
Clay - First chair trombone in the wind ensemble (now called Wind Symphony) all 4 years, marched trombone 2 years then euphonium 2 years.
Donavan - Switched from baritone to tuba his freshman year and stayed with it all 4 years.
Evan - Played French Horn in concert band and was in the wind ensemble all but his freshman year. He marched Mellophone for 2 years then tuba for his Junior & Senior years.
What are your favorite band show(s) over the years?
Pretty much unanimous that we all like Iconoclash the best – both show design and best performed.
Honorable mentions include Communiformity in ’09, Against the Clock in ’07, and of course the Football show in ’04.

A few great memories the Eickhoff boys have of the Avon Band Program
Alex, on a dare, once gave Mr. Harloff a big wet kiss on the cheek during pep band. Believe it or not Harloff thought it was funny.
Bart remembers during a marching band practice on the old grass soccer field, Mr. Harloff slipped, fell on his back and slid in the mud, while instructing the band. He said everyone totally lost it.

What are your sons doing since band (or their plans after band is over)
Alex works at Premier Credit in Indianapolis. He and his fiancé have been together for 5 years.
Bart is single, works for Rock Bottom Brewery in Indy, and also plays saxophone in a Rock/Funk band called Vibrations & Chemicals.
Clay, his wife and 21 month old son live near Bloomington where he works full time for Baxter Industries and is in school full time studying technical drawing & Design
Donavan is still at home, works for my Company, HASCO, and is planning to return to classes at Ivy Tech in the spring.
Evan is a senior and plans to attend college for ministry in North Carolina

Avon Saxophone Ensemble News

The Avon Saxophone Ensemble has several exciting performances coming up in the next few months. These 20 students have been diligently rehearsing 3-4 hours per week during saxophone ensemble class, and are putting their finishing touches on their 50 minute program.

Their first major performance will be at the Indiana Music Educators Association State Conference on Saturday, January 25. This performance will be at 1:00 PM at the Allen County Public Library Theater in Fort Wayne, IN. The Avon Saxophone Ensemble is the first saxophone ensemble selected to perform at this prestigious event! For those that can't make it to Fort Wayne, they will be performing a "dress rehearsal" concert on Wednesday, January 22, at 7:00 PM, at North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. The second major performance for the group will be at the National Conference of the North American Saxophone Alliance, during the weekend of March 20-22, in Champaign, IL. As a conference designed for collegiate and professional saxophonists, it is noteworthy that the Avon Saxophone Ensemble is the first high school saxophone ensemble selected to perform at the national conference in the 20 year history of the conference! We wish the Avon Saxophone Ensemble best of luck in their exciting upcoming performances.
My name is Will Pfaffenberger, and I’m pretty sure you’ve never heard of me because I graduated from Avon 14 years ago in the year 2000. Barb Doll and my mom, Jane, asked me to write a piece about myself because this very newsletter you are reading will now have a section featuring Avon Band program alumni. So, here is the brief story of an old strange man you’ve never heard of whom once studied music at Avon just like you are doing now... or did... or your child is... I’m not 100% sure who the exact audience is for this particular newsletter.

Anyway... Long ago in the late nineties of the 20th century, I was once a proud band geek at Avon. This was before all of these championships, and semi-trucks, and respect, and talent like you all have now. It was a growing program on the cusp of greatness but not quite there yet. Looking back on my band experience, being competitively great in music was probably secondary to hanging out with my best band friends, dating the smartest and most fun band girls, and of course, having 2 of my 7 or 8 classes a day devoted to the band. If I’m doing my math correctly, that’s like 80% music a day, but who knows? I didn’t really take any math classes.

Instead, I was in The Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band, which were a lot more fun than learning percentages! Oh, yes, I also marched in the Marching Band, my freshman year, in case my band geek street cred was in question, but I opted out of marching the other three years for a soccer career during the Fall instead...which I am pretty sure you can’t do any more these days or you’ll be exiled to choir or gym class or something. Just kidding. I played the French horn in Wind Ensemble and the piano in Jazz Band.

French horn was all business; piano was all play. I played the music on the page in Wind Ensemble, and I improvised around chord charts in Jazz Band. It was the perfect mix of traditional and contemporary musical approaches for me. Taking on the challenge of learning, practicing, improvising and then doing my best to precisely yet expressively perform is a creative process that I still value and use to this day. While that whole kind of experience was initially introduced to me at home while watching my dad play piano, it was the Avon Band Program where I got to fully immerse myself in a creatively focused environment and do it every day with my closest friends. It was the beginning of learning the fundamentals of music, collaboration, and how to honor, bend, or break those rules to achieve creatively different ends. That foundation was expanded in college where I applied those skills to writing original music for comedy bits and producing audio for my college radio show. That’s right; I produced comedy bits for the radio and DID NOT do any elite concert pianist-ing or French horning. I used my music knowledge for evil... dirty irreverent irresponsible despicable jokes. And, that is what has become a pretty fun career for me. I get to create music in the form of comedy every day as the producer for “The Smiley Morning Show” on 99.5 WZPL, and I also get to write original music for shows with my sketch comedy company, Three Dollar Bill Comedy. So, I guess what I’m saying is this, and this could be more of an accusation depending on how you look at it: the Avon Band Program, more or less, armed me with the musical ability to write, produce, and perform dumb jokes including such gems as a parody to Macklemore’s “Poppin’ Tags” entitled “Poop In Bags.”

Resounding endorsement for being in band? Yeah, I think so. Music is pretty powerful stuff.
Sam Bivens is a 2005 graduate of Avon High School. A tuba player, he first entered the band program in the fall of 2001 as a member of the first Avon Marching Band to attain a state championship and achieve a BOA Grand National Finals appearance. For the next four years he played tuba in various large and chamber ensembles and garnered spots in the All-State Honor Band. Sam also played keyboard for the World Winter Drumline during the 2004 and 2005 seasons. He received the John Philip Sousa Award his senior year.

After high school Sam was a member of the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps during the 2005 season, where he won the Outstanding Rookie Visual Member award. Sam completed his Drum Corps International career as a member of The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps for three seasons from 2006 to 2008. Highlights include participating in the 60th anniversary season in 2008, winning various DCI Individual and Ensemble awards, and winning the DCI World Championship for The Cavaliers’ 2006 production MACHINE.

In the fall of 2005 Sam matriculated at Butler University, pursuing a degree in Tuba Performance. Among other highlights, Sam received the Presser Foundation Scholarship his junior year and served as a substitute musician for various professional orchestras throughout the Midwest.

Following the completion of his undergraduate degree Sam moved to Rochester, New York to pursue graduate studies in music theory at the world-renowned Eastman School of Music, where he completed his Masters in Music Theory Pedagogy in 2013. In addition to being a student, Sam also teaches undergraduate music theory courses at Eastman, receiving the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Prize. In the fall of 2013 Sam began his Ph.D. studies in music theory at Eastman, specializing in the music of the late nineteenth century, including Wagner, Bruckner, Mahler, and Richard Strauss. Upon graduation, Sam plans to teach music theory at the university level.

Sam recently received his private pilot’s license and is also starting a side career as a music arranger for marching bands.

Sam also shared the following funny story: “During band camp my sophomore year, two senior tuba players, Ben Forsythe and Thomas Berlin, asked me if I had any ideas for a song— they wanted to write one and perform it at the talent show that week with their rock band. Jokingly I mentioned something about a song that gives out my phone number to try to get me a date. I never considered for a moment that they would actually do it. I forgot about it until the evening of the talent show when the band walked on stage and announced “Would Sam Bivens come to the stage, please?” I was a shy kid, and I’m still not sure how I survived standing on that stage with most of the band chanting “745-****! Give him a call! He needs a date!!” The last day of band camp I awoke to find that the seniors had taken Styrofoam cups and spelled my phone number in a fence in front of the practice field, just in case anyone had forgotten. They didn’t; it was a catchy tune.

And no, one ever called.
Coming soon ....
Many Opportunities to enjoy all the Winter groups

January 22 – Avon Sax Ensemble – North United Methodist Church  7:00pm

February 15 & 16 – WGI Indy Regional for World Drumline – Franklin Central

February 16 – Avon Indoor performs exhibition at WGI Indy Regional

February 22 & 23 – WGI Indy Regional for World & A Guard – Ben Davis

**February 28 – Cadet, A, World Guard, A & World Drumline Show & Tell Night – 6:30pm Avon High School – Main Gym $5.00** (Great night of entertainment for $5.00)

March 1 – Avon Vocal Invitational – all day at Avon High School

March 9 – Avon Brass Choir – Concert at Avon High School – free – 1:00pm Hendricks Regional Performing Arts Auditorium

**March 15 – IPA State Prelims – Avon High School. All day – top drumlines from across the State compete.**

March 22 – IPA State Finals for Drumline at Ben Davis

March 22 – IHSCGA State Finals for Guard at Center Grove

Note: times for the competitions are not available until the week of the competition. If you would like to attend please contact Barb Doll at 544-5093 for the exact times and costs.

They are Back!

A Thank you to all our supporters
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZEm4Fb3pEo
(or find it on Avon Band Together Facebook page – or search You Tube for Band Together Thank you)

Now .... Pass it on to your friends and family, by email and Facebook and encourage them to join, too!

Don’t miss the new interviews with Daniel Wiles
Daniel Wiles Part 1: Favorite Activities Outside of Guard

Band Matters invites you to submit ideas or your own stories and pictures for future issues....

Please send your ideas, stories or pictures to Barb Doll at bjdoll@avon-schools.org.

**Band Together Mugs**

We have mugs!!!  They are $8.00 a mug or $15.00 for two.

If you would like a mug or two, please contact Barb Doll at 544-5093
***Join online with PayPal at avonband.com/bandtogether***

Today's Date __________________________

Primary Membership Name: ________________________________
Maiden Name (if applicable, for alumna): __________________________
Names of immediate family (for FAMILY memberships): ________

Complete Mailing Address: ________________________________________

Preferred Email: _______________________________________________
Preferred Phone: ______________________________________________

Relationship to Band Program: 
____ Student or Graduate within past 5 years   __ NEW member
____ Avon Grad more than 5 years out   __ RENEWAL
____ Family of Current Band Student
____ Family without student currently in Band
____ General supporter with no prior relationship

School Years associated with the Avon Band (if applicable)
__________________________

If previously in the Band, please check one:
____ Hornline   ____ Drumline   ____ Guard   ____ Pit   ____ Drum Major

Membership Tiers:
____ ($25) Current Student or Graduate within 5 years
____ ($40) Other Individual
____ ($100 or more) PREMIER Individual
____ ($50) Family of CURRENT student
____ ($80) Other Family
____ ($5) Additional or replacement lanyard
____ ($5) Additional or replacement memb

Additional Donation:
____ ($10) Drumsticks (1 year useful life)
____ ($40) Mallets (6 months useful life) or Flag (2 year lifespan)
____ ($50) Rifle (2 year lifespan)
____ ($75) Horn Mouthpiece (3 year useful life)
____ ($200) Drum stand or harness (3 year lifespan)
____ ($500) Bass drum (5 year lifespan; donor name plate included)
____ ($2200) Trumpet (10 year lifespan)
____ Other amount

____ TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED

CHECK ONE:
____ Yes, it is acceptable to use my name on membership rosters, newsletters and other appropriate promotional documents. (Names and contact information will NEVER be sold. Contact information will not be shared.)
____ No, do not share my name. I prefer to remain anonymous

Please note, additional donations of $499 or less are treated as un-restricted and used for the Band's greatest needs. Donations of $500 or more can be restricted to the donor's request and will be recognized by a small plaque on the instrument or case.

Make checks payable to Avon Band Together and mail this form along with dues to: Avon Band Together, c/o Ms. Deb Claus, 7417 Lombardi Drive, Plainfield, IN 46168