

# El Modena Band and Color Guard Boosters Newsletter

December 2010

El Modena High School - 3920 Spring Street, Orange, CA 92869  
www.elmobandandguard.com

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## From the Director's Desk...



Everyone should be so proud of all our Vanguards. They performed way beyond what was expected of them this year. **Over 20 trophies and plaques now display all of our recent accomplishments. It was a sweet season indeed!**

The Band and Guard had a great time at the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade on Saturday night, December 4. It was a pretty good workout, as the slow pace of the other entries kept us at least half of the moving rate expected. What would normally have taken us less than a half hour to complete took at least an hour, so we were all pretty tired afterwards.

The kids really enjoyed decorating their instruments, hats, and props. Congratulations to Fernando Carrillo for winning the prize (a \$20 gift certificate to Starbucks) for having the best decorated instrument. The next parade will be at **Disneyland** on *Friday, February 25*. We can expect an exciting day and the group will be well prepared because of the head start in the parade-style marching and performing technique we acquired at Belmont Shore.

Let me announce our upcoming **Winter Concert** which will be held here in the Cafetorium on *Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm*. We will feature the Concert Band performing the standard "Sleigh Ride," and a great new piece called "Celtic Carol." The Marching Band again will play "Fusion" and "March of the Toys". There will be a couple of string orchestra numbers, one of which features a trumpet soloist, and our Full Orchestra performing a great Vaughan Williams piece called "A Vaughan Williams Christmas." The Concert will conclude with several numbers presented by the Jazz Ensemble.

Other good news:

We have VPE this year! With over 20 kids signing up, finally we have this exciting program off the ground. It should prove to greatly increase the skills of our percussion students in preparation of next year's field competition season.

Also Winter Guard is well underway and we are once again counting on a stellar competition season.

In case I don't get the chance to say this to you in person.....

*Happy Holidays!*

Randy Ames  
Director, Instrumental Music

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## What the Prez Says

by Sue Coffman

## SHEER AWESOMENESS!



After overhearing some comments that have been made since the Fresno Championships a couple of weeks back, and how depressed all the students were about their final placement (not to mention the depression over not getting to perform in the Finals due to a rained-out field), I don't think the students understand how truly awesome they did that weekend, not to mention all year! In the decade that I've been involved in the band (which is the only time El Mo has been with WBA; before that they hadn't been involved with marching in a big way since the 90s), this is the highest scoring they have EVER received!!

Just to illustrate how extremely well our band and guard has done this year: they placed **FIRST** all season (which is highly unusual for any smaller band), got **VISUAL** every competition, **SWEPT** the Caption Awards **TWICE**, and then placed **THIRD** for the **ENTIRE WESTERN REGION** of 2A bands (16 bands competing)!! This is the highest placing this band has EVER gotten for Champs (usually we would just squeak into Finals with the last placing possible), and to place **NINTH OVERALL** for all 1A, 2A, and 3A bands in the Western Region (not just California), out of 46 total competing bands, is not to be taken lightly!! I don't think our kids get that. As parents perhaps we can remind them of this truly amazing feat. They might actually listen! ☺

Also, according to the ASB office, our band is the only good sports outcome the entire school has had this semester! So please remember that our Mighty Little Band has outdone itself this year; if it weren't for the incredible support of a dedicated director, an awesome performance staff, truly motivated & talented students, and the hard work & tough love from the Best Booster Organization around, we would not be where we are today!

Let us move forward with ever more awesomeness as we enter the concert, parade, and festival season!!

## GO BAND & GUARD...FOREVER!



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT - TAKE THREE

1. What instrument(s) have you played since your music education began, and what are you doing/playing this year?
2. What brought you to El Modena's Marching Band & Color Guard?
3. What has been your biggest challenge during high school, in regard to band or guard?
4. What is your favorite band memory?
5. Please give the freshmen some words of advice in regard to music.



### SCOTT BLEAKLY

1. I started learning drums with Bottom bass, and am currently playing tenors.
2. Antone Ribaudo (class of 2010) convinced me to join the Marching Band.
3. My biggest challenge has been getting people to join VPE (Vanguard Percussion Ensemble) in the spring; my sophomore and junior years we didn't have enough people to form the group.
4. My favorite memory is chilling with my friends at Championships in my junior year.
5. As for my words of advice to the freshmen...just be cool, calm, and mature, and AVOID DRAMA AT ALL COSTS!!!



### KEVIN MCBRIEN

1. I started learning the piano at the age of five and switched to violin in the 4th grade. I then decided that the violin wasn't for me and started playing trumpet in 5th grade. When I entered middle school, I took up the French horn and have played it ever since. I have also played mellophone all four years of high school and just recently started learning the string bass.
2. In 8th grade, I remember seeing the band perform their field show on Santiago Night and thinking, "I want to do that!"
3. I think managing my schedule has been the biggest challenge for me. On top of band and school, I participate in my church's high school choir, a handbell choir, and the Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra. It may not sound like much, but all these activities are pretty time consuming!
4. I'd have to say Championships my sophomore year (2008) was one of my favorite band experiences. A lot of fun memories were made that weekend.

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT**, Kevin McBrien, continued

5. Freshmen, don't stop playing your instrument after high school! Music is one of the greatest things life has to offer and there are so many great careers out there that are music based. Trust me, you will regret it if you stop playing!



## AL OFICIAL

1. I started my music education playing trumpet but I wasn't really good at it, so then I tried playing the string bass which seemed really cool, and now I'm playing electric bass in pit this year.
2. My friends told me about joining the band, and I kind of wanted to experience what it felt like to be in marching band.
3. The hardest challenge I have right now is keeping on task with the other two music classes I have along with band, which is pretty hard.

4. My favorite band memory so far this year would have to be during Band Camp when the whole pit was having a little party in the choir room with the sound mixer.

5. All I can say to the freshmen is: work hard and practice every day! That's what will make you better...practice makes a better musician. I haven't realized that yet and I'm working on it

## Chicken Tortilla Soup "a la Gannaway"

2 bags "Just Grilled" chicken strips (Trader Joe's)

2 jars Garlic salsa (Trader Joe's)

1 bag frozen Fire roasted corn (Trader Joe's) or 1 can corn

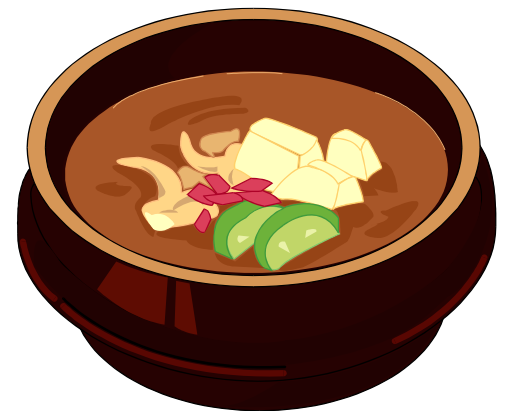
1 can black beans

1 can kidney beans

1 bag roasted potatoes (Trader Joe's) optional

2 boxes chicken broth

Add all ingredients to a pot, warm through. Serve with tortilla chips, shredded cheese, avocado and sour cream.



*This delicious and warming soup was served by the Bando Café at Championships. Mmm, mmm, GOOD!!*

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**

**TO BERNADETTE AND JOHN GANNAWAY AND THE MANY BOOSTER PARENTS WHO HELPED FEED "THE TROOPS" THROUGHOUT THIS FALL'S FIELD SEASON!!!**

# EL MO ON PARADE



BELMONT SHORES CHRISTMAS PARADE, DECEMBER 4, 2010





# Seniors 2011



## EL MODENA HIGH SCHOOL VANGUARD MARCHING BAND AND COLOR GUARD



SCOTT BLEAKLY

ALEX BURRIS

ALEC COFFMAN

EVA CRUZ

BRENTON GAINES

MASON GANNAWAY

ALEX HURRALL-NIELSEN

TOM KARAFFA

MICHAEL LEWANDOWSKI

NOLAN MARKEY

KEVIN MCBRIEN

AL OFICIAL

GUILLERMO TUDELA

Marching Season has come to an end!

Our Marching Seniors have had their last go at the Field Show that has proven so miraculous this year!! What a great way to end their last year with Marching Band & Guard, and I know that our 13 seniors had a great time with all their "senior perks." From the goodies given out at each Home football game, to the special corsages they wore at Championships, this year's seniors enjoyed lots of special attention. They each received a personalized scarf before Fresno, embroidered with "El Modena Final Tour, Fusion 2010," to commemorate their musical experiences in high school. They also were able to be first in the food line at all competitions, had a raffle for gifts at each site, experienced a special In-N-Out lunch during their last-ever Saturday field rehearsal, and had a fun Elmo-themed lunch and an elegant (& warm) sit-down dinner at Championships.

I want to extend a grateful Thank You to all the parents who came & supported our seniors at the practices, the games, the competitions, and in Fresno; your help has been so very important to the success of all these endeavors! And we aren't done yet; there is still Awards Night in June! I will be sending out a request soon for baby/childhood/senior pictures to be used as part of the Night's festivities!

Senior Recognition Night went smoothly also, thanks to the awesome help of Shawn & Betsy & Melinda...you guys rock and you know how special I think you are!! Having the seniors share their experience with their family members on a special night just for them (along with Football and Cheer seniors) is a wonderful tradition at El Mo!

The parade and concert and festival season is now upon us...can't wait to see what our awesome seniors will do as they wind down toward their last days of high school!

Sue Coffman, Senior Mom 2011



**WISHING A VERY HAPPY AND  
SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON  
TO ALL OF YOU  
IN OUR BAND "FAMILY"!**

### 2010-2011 Booster Board

President	Sue Coffman
1st Vice President	Melinda Littau
2nd Vice President	<i>Open</i>
Secretary	Marisa Jurado
Treasurer	Shawn Young
Financial Secretary	Lupe Gaines
Auditor	Betsy Christensen

### Appointed Directors

Student Accounts	Jill Reilly
Corresp. Secretary	Anna Lewis
Communications	Dan Lally
Equipment	Jose Uribe
Newsletter	Debbye Karaffa
New Members	Lupe Gaines
Publicity	Nancy Montgomery
Hospitality	Bernadette & John Gannaway
Uniforms	Anna Lewis
Championships	Betsy Christensen
Seniors	Sue Coffman
Awards	Shawn Young

### Unit Representatives

Band Rep.	Betsy Christensen and Carla Hefler
Jazz Rep.	Ron Coffman
Colorguard Rep.	Melody Brooks
Percussion Rep.	Janine Bleakly
Orchestra	Ken Kressin

### Important Upcoming Dates

Dec.	4	Belmont Shores Christmas Parade
	9	Board and Booster Meetings
	16	Winter Concert
	20	Winter Break begins
Jan.	10	School Resumes
	13	Board and Booster Meetings
	17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday- no school

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE  
EL MODENA MARCHING BAND  
AND COLORGUARD  
ON YOUR  
AWARD WINNING  
FIELD SHOW SEASON!  
GO BAND & GUARD!**



### *Editor's Note:*

*I hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Booster Newsletter. Please note that all dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please check the website. .*

*Parents, staff, and students are welcome to submit articles, letters, photos, etc., for possible inclusion in upcoming issues. Please send them to [ddkaraffa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddkaraffa@sbcglobal.net), marked "El Mo Band Newsletter" in the subject line.*

*Thanks so much for your support!*

*Debbye Karaffa, Editor*

**Deadline for February issue:  
January 21, 2011**