



August 19, 2009

Dear Parents,

This letter is to give you an update on our spring tour...hopefully to Los Angeles. First, background information: Last year (2008-2009), I spent a lot of time telling Boosters and students that it would be unwise to think about and plan a "major trip" to Los Angeles (4-5 days) in 2009-2010 because of our current economic climate. With parents in our community having their work hours cut back or outright losing their jobs, it would be very difficult with a clear conscience to ask that they come up with money for such a trip.

In June, after we had spent the first part of class preparing for graduation, we spent the remainder of Finals day discussing our 2010 tour as a class. Students were both disheartened and understanding as I explained several logical reasons of why we could not/should not go on an extended trip. After a moment of silence, a student spoke up; "What if we took school buses? Would that save us some money?" Then, another; "What if we didn't stay in hotels every night? Could we crash in a school gym or a large church sanctuary?" Someone else; "What if we didn't book our trip through Heritage Festivals?"

One by one, great comments/questions started coming in...and it became quickly apparent that these kids were willing to do *anything* to go on a major trip. As I shared this story with our Band Booster Board over the summer, we had a mixture of excitement and skepticism. History has shown that, while there are many hard workers in the band, there is also another faction of students who are adept at talking the talk – but not so great at walking the walk. One board member suggested that I write an ultimatum letter of sorts to the kids from Boosters – suggesting that we would work hard if we see that the kids were genuinely serious about going on this trip; not by their words, but by their actions. "Put Up or Shut Up!" one parent said half jokingly, half seriously. The phrase kind of clicked with us. And, as we brainstormed a creative nickname based on the concept, "Pu-Shu" was born. So...

## Pu-Shu

FHS Band Students,

As your Band Booster Board and band director, we are willing to work hard to get you to L.A. by any means necessary...but, we have to see results early on. If we don't see results, then there will be no trip to L.A. This will not be an easy undertaking, and this will require work on your part...not just for a few days, but stretched out over many months in a row. As Boosters, we are going to start the year with our cookie dough fundraiser and a tri-tip dinner fundraiser. Our cookie dough has always done well, but the latter (the tri-tip fundraiser) has been a bit of a dud the last two years. The tri-tip dinner has been well organized by the boosters but in the past it was held towards the end of the year and nobody seemed motivated to sell any tickets. We feel that each student, with hard work, has the ability to get \$200 in their personal band account by the end of September.

Now, a few students have parents that do not believe in fundraising. Are these the only two ways to put money in accounts? Absolutely not! Students may put donations from relatives, money from work, or any

other entrepreneurial endeavor (mowing lawns for neighbors/friends, collecting recyclables from neighbors/friends, etc...).

We are not putting a target number on cookie dough sales or tri-tip dinner tickets, but with that said; you need to collectively set record sales on both of these in order to get accounts where they need to be. By the end of September (6 weeks from now), students are expected to have \$200 in their individual band account. With almost 80 people in our band, 16,000 dollars would help us begin to see what kind of trip we could actually do. There will be no planning of this trip until October 1<sup>st</sup> (we are not even going to pick a trip date yet), because we just don't know what to expect from your fundraising efforts.

**Your efforts will directly determine the type of trip we take - any comforts and extra events - or if we even take a trip at all.**

**So, the ball is in your court –**

***-It's Pu-Shu time!***

Best of luck,

*Mitch Baker*, Band Director

*Rob Johnson*, Band Booster President

---

By Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>...please ☺

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept the responsibility of pulling my weight in order to get our band down to L.A. I will work hard over the next 6 weeks in order to get \$200 in my account by the end of September.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_