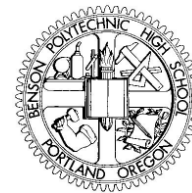


BENSON TECH ALUMNI TEXT



The Official Newsletter of the Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association
August 2010 Edition

Fighting For Benson's Future Continues

Benson's future hinges on the School District's decisions this September. In April 2010, Superintendent Carole Smith recommended, as part of a district-wide high school redesign, Benson's historic 4-year comprehensive curriculum be changed to a 2-year, part-time program that would be open to only 800 students from across the city. Under intense campaigning by parents, students, teachers, and the Benson Alumni Association – as well as questions from some of the elected school board members – Superintendent Smith proposed in May 2010 an alternative 4-year full-time program for Benson, but limiting enrollment to 400 students with a fewer technical programs for students to choose from. Other recommendations in the high school design were to close one or more of Portland's neighborhood high schools, equalize programs between the remaining schools to increase equity, and redraw some of the school boundaries.

The ensuing controversy over the proposal especially relating to Benson and Jefferson led the Superintendent and the School Board to postpone the scheduled June decision until this fall. Part of that agreement was to convene a Blue Ribbon Task Force to examine Career Technical Education (CTE) among the neighborhood high schools, what Benson's role in CTE should be, and the size of Benson's enrollment. It now appears that the Task Force will not meet until September 7th, and the members have not yet been publicly named.

The Task Force's report will undoubtedly affect whether Benson continues as a 4-year school with integrated academic-technical programs, what technical programs are offered at Benson, and whether enrollment remains at approximately 1100 students, 400 students, or something in between. Each of those decisions impacts the character and viability of what Benson can offer

as a stepping stone to being job-ready or college-ready at graduation.

Benson's Alumni Association – as well as many Benson teachers, parents, and students – continue to offer assistance to the School Board and the Task Force as they study and deliberate Benson's future. We are also looking forward to studying the Blue Ribbon Task Force's report and as appropriate, offer comments and counterproposals to the School Board. Individually, you can help as well.

Look for updates at BensonTechAlumni.org and on Facebook to see what you can do.. Portland Public School's webpage is also a source of information on the high school design project and has email addresses for individual Board Members who are most interested in public input.

Calendar of Events

- 08/23 & 08/24.....Benson Fall Registration
PTSA is needing volunteers.
Morning & afternoon sessions
- 08/28 & 08/29.....Class of 1960 Reunion
- 08/28.....PPS Community Cares Day:
Benson Campus Clean-up
9am to Noon
- 10/01.....Homecoming Football Game
7:00pm vs. Jefferson
@ Cleveland H.S. Field
SE 31st & Powell

A complete list of Benson sporting events can be found at the BPHSAA website. Fall sports include football, volleyball, soccer and cross-country. GO TECH!!!

BPHSAA Past Year Accomplishments

The Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association is completing its second year having been established in August 2008. While membership was down from the first year, the Association and its current members accomplished even more than in their first year.

A few highlights:

- The Association's sponsored Alumni Room during Tech Show which was visited by several hundred alumni.
- The Association was heavily involved collectively and individually as a major voice against "downsizing" Benson as recommended in April by the Portland Public School's Superintendent. Its website and contributions to Facebook helped rally opposition as well as its participation in a coalition of parents, teachers and students and in public testimony, emails and letters.
- The on-going scholarship program made awards to three 2010 graduates.
- The Association's website has been modified to accept membership payments (and donations) on line and continues to be updated with alumni relevant news and information.

Homecoming Game—Friday, October 1st

"Homecoming" for Benson's football team is on Friday, October 1st beginning at 7pm against one of its longtime rivals, Jefferson High School. For everyone loving football – and all those with just a lot of school pride – the event will be an ideal occasion to let the team, school and Portland know by your attendance how much you care.

Benson plays their home games on the field located at Cleveland High School, which is located between SE 31st and 33rd off of Powell Blvd. Admission is \$6.

Can't wait for Homecoming or have a conflict ? The team will kick off the season on Sept 3rd against Centennial H.S.

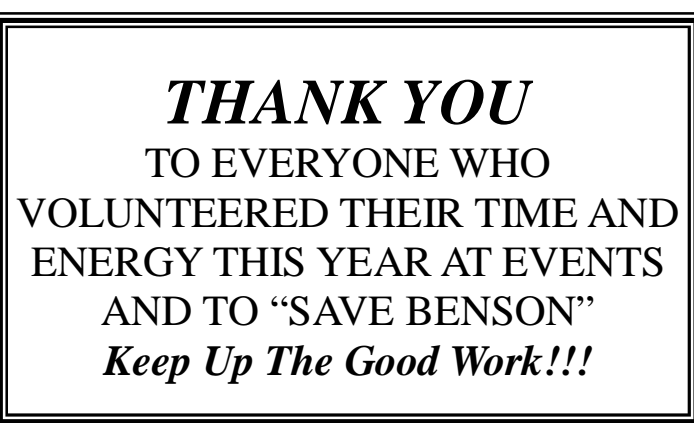
The entire season schedule can be found at the BPHSAA website along with the schedules for volleyball, soccer and cross-country.

Individuals representing the Association were very active at Benson this year in a variety of ways. They:

- participated in orientations for incoming Freshmen.
- served on department advisory committees.
- mentored students.
- helped to organize an "end-of-year" student appreciation BBQ;
- attended PTSA and Site Council meetings every month.
- joined Comcast and Hands-on Greater Portland, to do painting, cleaning and landscaping on the Saturday before Tech Show.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Benson Alumni Association intends to increase its support of the PTSA, the Benson Foundation, the mentoring program, and homecoming as well as enlisting new supportive partnerships for Benson's technical programs.

As always the Association is open to new and additional ideas from Benson's alumni plus offers to help in any of its activities.



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