



# RAGGANT STANDARD

## Frank DeMiero Jazz Festival

Our students have the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Frank DeMiero Jazz Festival on Saturday, March 4th at the Edmonds Center for the Arts Auditorium.



Students carpooling need to meet at 11am at the Haggen Parking Lot off 88th Street in Marysville (contact for carpooling is Leila Bowers: 425.508.2884). Cantamus is scheduled to warm up at 12:05 and sing at 12:30, while Opus Dei warms up at 2:05 and sings at 2:30. After each group sings, they will be adjudicated, where we will hear feedback about our respective performances. We'll get to hear a few groups sing and at 4pm is the Soundstation Awards Concert. This should end at 5pm according to the schedule, when the students can go home.

Students should come dressed in Event Uniform and remember to eat an early lunch (or bring a sack lunch to eat on the way), water bottle and snack.

Frank DeMiero founded and directed the Soundsation Jazz Camp and the Frank DeMiero Jazz Camp, which had more than 6000 students and educator participants during the 25 years of its existence (1976-2000). To acknowledge Frank, the city of Edmonds honored him with the Community Service Award 2007.

Frank also founded Edmonds Community College's annual jazz festival in 1977 and the Frank DeMiero Jazz Festival in 2005. The merger of the two festivals builds on and fulfills the foundation's educational mission and brings internationally-known performing artists to our communities.



## Field Trip #3: Service

Our next Field Trip will be on Friday, March 24th at...THE SCHOOL! Please come in work clothes ready to help scrub, clean, weed, polish, and shine Reclamation Church, home of ECS. Lunch will be provided (PIZZA!!) and, weather permitting, we will finish the day playing at Jennings Park - so plan on picking-up your Raggants at 3pm at Jennings Park by the softball fields. If you wish your student to have something else for lunch, please send him with a sack lunch. No microwaves will be available.



## Secondary Students: House Crests are due to Mr. Sarr by March 30th!

### BIRTHDAYS

Landon Bowie: March 16th  
Reese Paine: March 20th  
Ellie Sarr: March 31st  
Jersey Walker: April 18th  
Edith Bowers: April 25th

### Rummage Sale Fundraiser

Start saving your sellable treasures! We will be having a Fundraiser Rummage Sale for the UK Trip on Saturday, July 22nd! If you are interested in helping, contact Mrs. Bowers.

### Upcoming Events

- March 4th: Frank DeMiero Jazz Concert from 11am - 5pm @ Edmonds Arts Center
- March 17th: Dress Uniform
- March 24th: Field Trip #3: Service & Clean-up Day! (wear work clothes)
- March 26th: ECS UK Trip Information Night and Potluck
- March 30th: Last Day of Quarter 3 and House Crests Due to Mr. Sarr

The School is planning a tentative trip for Secondary students, Alumni, and Auditors who have completed Omnibus II or beyond! An Information Night & Potluck is scheduled for Sunday, March 26th at 5pm at the vanderBekens' home. All curious are invited! Please bring a main dish and a side to share.



## Why Uniforms?

By Mrs. Bowers

When most people think of uniforms they conjure up ranks of faceless soldiers, grease-spattered and braces-bespeckled McDonald's workers, or straight-laced English schoolchildren standing rank and file under a grey mizzle.

Certainly there is a type of uniform that seeks to flatten and deface - a bit like the Green Witch of Underland and her Earthmen, or the above instances. The point in these scenarios is to not be unique - to efface individuality in the interest of uniformity and obedience to orders (sometimes with life-or-death consequences).

I would like to argue not for uniform uniformity at ECS, but for harmony. As I was discussing this with Mrs. Higgins, she brought up the example of singing, and as we like singing here, it seemed an apt analogy. We love all the individuals of ECS with their quirks, strengths, weaknesses, and oddities - and we love all of that being present within our two choirs. However, the goal of a choir is harmony. We have some strong singers, but those strong singers need to learn to harmonize so everyone makes beautiful music together. There will come a time - within the school and without - for that individuality to shine, but that is not the primary emphasis of daily song, nor daily learning. Much like within the Church, we love the toe-ness of toes and the finger-nail-ness of fingernails - and sometimes we stub our toe and it has its moment of grandeur - but we are part of one body. Our students are part of one school - as they learn and are equipped, they are in it together, encouraging and edifying and challenging and even teaching one another. Our harmonizing of gifts and talents is liturgized (of course that's a word) in our uniforms.

We desire blending in this sense, but we also want close-knit unity. Students can hit all their notes while casting a vicious sidelong glance. We may not be seeking the same uniformity of the military, but we are in a fight, and there are a lot of arrows being whittled around here. And what exactly is school for? It equips them to be winsome, deep-souled worshippers of the triune God. This is squire-academy for valiant fighters-in-training. We are part of the same squad, team, group, and unit - this is the training ground and boot camp for future battle, and as such, we come dressed for the occasion. This is not so kids won't be distracted by others' clothing choices (because you can't prevent distraction in a world of squirrels and snowflakes), nor for the ease of knowing what to wear in the morning, and not to equalize the playing field of fashion (because the mayfly and Michael Jordan alone evidence that no playing field, animal or otherwise, is equalized).

It is to remind the students that this is their job - this is their people - this is their fight, and they are all in it. Little or big, fast or slow, older or younger, a uniform presents a physical, instant recognition of inclusion and solidarity.



Amongst this harmony and unity, we also seek clear identity. To borrow yet another analogy, did any of you fuss when you donned the uniform of your high school or college sport's team? You may have disliked how something rode up in the wrong place, or the shortness or tightness of an item, but you didn't mind wearing it. Your parents may have gulped when they wrote the check. But they did it. It was worth it.

Why? First, it was an accomplishment. You were proud of where you were, and you were excited about the history of that school and program. It identified you as part of something. We want the Raggants to feel the same way - they are all a part of something BIG and AWESOME. I will try to tease it out in a future article, but we even wear the plaid skirts as a nod to Scottish Presbyterians who planted Classical schools as they moved across the country. There is history and weight here, and we want to rejoice in that (and identify with the Scots, because....haggis. And golf.).

Second, it was the accepted and pragmatic uniform for the sport. We wore these hideous full-body leotards in crew because you didn't want anything catching in the shell (and chafing is a beast). Swimmers wear suits that will minimize drag. In the same way, uniforms help us to minimize academic drag - we are here to work - we are here to be part of the team - we are here to learn and fight and win and be proud of the whole process.

Third, uniforms are a representation of something - we identify uniforms with teams and countries and cities - if we are doing things right, the longer our students wear uniforms, the more they love them because the more they love what the uniforms represent. Of course it could all dissolve into high-flung legality and high-nosed pomp, but that's part of why we are the only school on the PLANET who wear a little, tubby, basset-hound-unicorn-rhinoceros on our uniforms. It's just downright cool, and it helps keep us in our place.

Finally, uniforms are utilitarian. They make it easy to tell who is who in the parking lot or on the court. They make dress code enforcement far easier, and mornings less complicated. In the long run, especially with a system and numerous offspring of the same gender, they save a good deal of money. They (hopefully) reduce the stress and pressure of the Fashion tyrants who exert their iron will in back-to-school sales and commercials.

Uniforms carry the force of tradition and weight of history - from the slums of Haiti, where students without enough food still get dressed in crisp uniforms on school days, to the robes and jester-hats of Medieval Professors, we stand with them. Uniforms are, in the end, just exterior. But like a squire who finally proves himself worthy of knighthood, as our graduates lay aside navy cardigans and white button-up shirts, our hope is that they will do so with a sense of fondness - a thankfulness for the training they received in those uniforms, training which now well equips them to don new uniforms in new adventures.