Welcome

The Blue & Gold Club of Detroit Country Day School is proud to present the inaugural issue of Traditions, a newsletter to the Country Day community. Country Day has a nearly 100-year history filled with many traditions. For over 30 years, the Blue & Gold Club has supported DCDS athletics, and in doing so, has built its own traditions. The Club continues this work and hopes to foster the growth of new and meaningful traditions at the school.

In Traditions we will provide information on past, current and future athletic activities around DCDS. Some of our features will provide updates on key projects, as well as other important news from the school. We’ll hear from coaches, school administration, and maybe even some of our fine student-athletes. Most important, we hope to enlighten our readers as to the support Blue & Gold generates for Country Day.

Welcome to Detroit Country Day Blue & Gold Traditions!

“You’re never as good as everyone tells you when you win, and you’re never as bad as they say when you lose.”  
~ Lou Holtz

The Blue & Gold Club has a long tradition of supporting Detroit Country Day athletics. For over 30 years, our mission has remained the same: to help DCDS and its students live up to the school motto Mens Sana in Corpore Sano, a Sound Mind in a Sound Body. In doing so, we focus our efforts in promoting the scholar-athlete concept at Country Day by providing funds for the enhancement of athletic facilities and programs for students of all ages.

Over the years, Blue & Gold has raised and contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide facilities, equipment and programs that would otherwise be beyond the scope of the general school budget. Money is raised by the Blue & Gold Club through annual membership fees and various fund raising events held throughout the year. Past projects which are the direct result of Blue & Gold Club efforts include the new Shaw Stadium Press Box, the Concession Stand and Locker Room Building, the Brick Paver walkway to the Stadium, and much, much more.

Blue & Gold is a collegial group of fathers and school administrators, who collectively, through a mutual love of sports and strong desire to support athletic programs at the school, work together to pool financial resources, energy and talent to improve and enhance athletic facilities for all our students. Many of the facilities and equipment our children enjoy today were made possible by the unselfish and dedicated efforts of past Blue & Gold Club members, who had the foresight to build for the future.

If you are already a Blue & Gold member, I applaud you for helping us move Country Day forward with one of the best school athletic programs in the country. If you are not yet part of Blue & Gold, I encourage you to find out what opportunities there are for joining us and helping carry out our mission for today’s Country Day students and those yet to come.

Ed Santangelo  
Blue & Gold Club President
Construction Projects Underway
- Progress Continues

If you have been on the Country Day Upper and Middle School campuses recently, you’ve undoubtedly seen the return of heavy equipment and construction crews. That means progress is being made.

Work was completed this fall on the fabulous new Fitness Center, located in the Middle School, just south of the Cooper Gym, immediately off the Cooper Gym Entrance. The Fitness Center will provide a place where students can maintain and improve their health and fitness levels, while enhancing conditioning and training for their respective sports.

The expansive Fitness Center is encompasses nearly 9,300 sq. ft. of space, and in addition to offices, storage and a reception area, features a weight training area of approx. 2,550 sq. ft., a cardio training section over 2,300 sq. ft., and a dance studio over 1,800 sq. ft. By providing such amenities on-campus, we are making it convenient for our students to work towards reaching their athletic and fitness goals.

Over the summer, the old scoreboard at Shaw Stadium was replaced with an all-new electronic LED scoreboard, funded by the Blue & Gold Club. The new scoreboard also features a scrolling message board that can be used for special messages or even sponsor messages.

Excavation work began in summer for the new Field House, located behind the Upper School, just north of the Cooper Gym. By early October, structural steel was being erected with the goal of an enclosed structure by winter. Work will continue inside during winter with the objective of a completed building by Spring of 2011.

This facility will include an indoor turf field suitable for a wide variety of field sports. The Field House will be available year-round allowing students and the Country Day community access to practice fields even during the cold winter months.

The Blue & Gold Club is also involved in other projects in various stages of planning or approval. Since construction of the Cooper Gymnasium in 2007, we have not had a home field for baseball. Plans and locations for a new Country Day Baseball Park are currently being evaluated, with the objective of having a design that optimizes the natural aesthetics of the property while providing a first-class venue for Country Day Baseball. Plans are also underway to upgrade the natural grass Hillview Field at the Middle School with artificial turf, providing athletes with a safe, even field surface without dangerous ruts, holes and of course, mud.

With completion of these and other projects, Country Day will maintain and enhance its position nationally as a leading prep school, with athletic and recreational facilities for its students unmatched anywhere in the country.
Scholar-Athlete Dinner A Most Memorable Evening

On Thursday, November 4, 2010, over 300 people gathered at The Detroit Athletic Club, as the Blue & Gold Club proudly hosted the revival of a classic event: the Detroit Country Day Blue & Gold Club National Scholar-Athlete Award Dinner. Local sportscaster Bernie Smilovitz from WDIV-4 was the Master of Ceremonies.

The Scholar-Athlete tradition honors the personal qualities of character and discipline, as demonstrated through honesty, teamwork, dedication, respect, perseverance, selflessness and emotional resilience. It recognizes these qualities are often more effectively developed on the playing field in open competition, where one is tested individually and alongside his or her peers, and from which students develop strong character, disciplined bodies, and solid leadership skills.

At this event, an individual of local or national notoriety from the sports or business world, who most closely exemplifies the Scholar-Athlete tradition, is honored. Past awardees include Grant Hill, Frank Gifford, Dave Bing, Robert H. Flint, Joe Schmidt, Ben Bidwell, Duffy Daugherty, Bill Freehan, and Bo Schembechler, among others.

Several senior students were recognized for demonstrating excellence in academics, athletics, character and leadership among their peers. These students, Members of the Country Day Class of 2011 Student Scholar-Athletes included: Katherine “Katie” Copeland (cross country, soccer, hockey); Christopher A. Fowler (basketball); Eric S. Gruskin (tennis); Megana Hedni (golf, tennis); Margaret “Maggie” Keiffer (basketball, soccer); Kenneth D. Knight (football, basketball); Michael J. Ryan (swimming, cross country, track); Mahesh S. Umasankar (basketball, soccer); Madison Marie VanAntwerp (ice hockey, lacrosse, field hockey); E. Emilie Weiner (swimming, softball); Dartis E. Willis, II (track); and Michael S. Zausmer (golf).

This year’s Scholar-Athlete Award recipient was H. Samuel Greenawalt. Mr. Greenawalt has led an exemplary life of success and distinguished service. He attended the University of Pennsylvania where he was an All-American in football, and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the Wharton School. Greenawalt served in the U.S. Marines and retired as a Major. He had a long and successful career as a banking executive, and has served on several corporate Boards. Mr. Greenawalt has also served on the Boards of numerous charitable and civic organizations. A member of the Board of Trustees for DCDS since 1976, he is devoted to Country Day and can always be seen roaming the sideline at varsity football games, rooting for the Yellowjackets.

The entire Country Day family is grateful to Sam Greenawalt for his dedication, example, and tireless support of the school.
Youth Football Team Joins Lions on Field

The Yellowjackets youth football team had a very special and unique opportunity at the outset of their football season. The 5th-6th grade squad was invited to join the Detroit Lions on the field for the National Anthem at the Lions’ Aug. 28, exhibition game against the Cleveland Browns. Following the Anthem, there wasn’t much time for the boys to interact with the NFL players, but you could see some of the kids beaming as a few of them got “high-fived” by a pro.

The DCDS youth football team celebrated its inaugural season in 2009, playing against Catholic grade school teams (CYO league). That team finished with a 4-2 record against some decades-old programs. The 2010 squad, the first with returning players, played a very tough schedule. The boys had an undefeated record of 5-0 going into their last game, outscoring opponents 185-76, before ending the season with a heartbreaking loss at home to St. Regis.

Head coach Chris Fritzsching led a volunteer coaching staff of Ed Santangelo, Dave Yared, Skip Pearson, LaNard Graham, Lydell Powell and Bill Gallentine. The boys learned the fundamentals of football, along with lessons in sacrifice, dedication and perseverance. The hope is to develop a youth football tradition at Country Day, which develops football skills in younger boys so they ultimately becomes an experienced talent pool for the varsity team. So far, the “Jackets” youth football program looks to be well on its way.

2010 - 2011 Blue & Gold Calendar

The Blue & Gold Club has an ambitious schedule for this school year, filled with meetings, special events and club activities intended to be fun and help build camaraderie within the Club.

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<td>Sept. 13, 2010</td>
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<td>June 7, 2011</td>
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<td>June 9, 2011</td>
<td>Detroit Tiger Baseball Game</td>
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Coach Bartoshuk Recuperating

The Country Day community was shocked to hear the news that Men’s Soccer Coach Paul Bartoshuk suffered a heart attack while jogging near the Country Day campus on November 8, 2010. Thanks to the fast action of Paul’s running partner, a passerby walking his dog who stopped to help and also provided a nitroglycerin tablet, and others, Paul received almost immediate care. Things moved so swiftly that Coach Bartoshuk was in the cardiac catheterization lab at Beaumont Hospital within an hour of his first chest pains. Despite otherwise good health, Paul had a blockage in his heart that required a procedure to minimize the stress on his heart. He continues to rest and recuperate comfortably at the hospital. The entire extended Country Day family is very relieved, pleased with Paul’s progress, and prays for his full and speedy recovery.
Blue & Gold Golf Classic

The 33rd annual Blue & Gold Golf Classic was held Monday, September 13, 2010 at Oakland Hills Country Club. The 2010 Golf Classic Chair was Dean Greve’, and the Co-Chair was Terry Barr. The event raises money to support the Blue & Gold Club’s efforts at providing funds for capital improvements for the physical education and athletic programs at DCDS, benefitting students at every grade level. Nearly 180 golfers participated in the event. The winning golf group included Rick Palmer, Jim Futterknecht, Ken Hudson, Paul McIntosh, and Rick Palmer Jr. Tom Long won the Longest Drive Contest. George Peck won the Putting Contest. Thanks to the generosity of Blue & Gold members and their guests, the Blue & Gold Golf Classic raised over $63,000.

New Blue & Gold Membership Opportunities

The Blue & Gold Club is expanding membership opportunities to increase participation throughout the DCDS community.

For many years, Blue & Gold has consisted of 36 member positions on the Board of Directors. Each Board member is responsible for fulfilling a substantial annual financial donation commitment that helps Blue & Gold conduct its programs. Board members are also responsible for maintaining involvement and participation in Club meetings and activities and assume leadership positions for various Club activities. Board members are entitled to several benefits and invitations to special events throughout the school year.

Now, Blue & Gold is pleased to introduce the addition of a new membership category, the Blue & Gold Member At-Large. These are non-voting positions within Blue & Gold. They carry a nominal $300.00 annual donation commitment to DCDS. At-Large members are encouraged to participate in and support Club activities, serve on committees and assist with Club functions. This includes the opportunity to become captains to support DCDS team coaches or to support Lower and Junior school athletics. There are a number of coaching or assistant coaching opportunities at the Lower and Junior School levels.

Non-voting members will also enjoy limited benefits, as well as special access to other Club events. These include:
- A Blue & Gold nylon Jacket
- Access Fitness Center weight and workout rooms
- Invitation to the Club’s Varsity Football Playoff Tailgate Party
- Invitation to join the Blue & Gold Fall and Winter Basketball League (teams will include sons or daughters)
- Invitation to Blue & Gold Scholar Athlete Dinner
- Invitation to attend the Blue & Gold Alumni Casino Night Event
- Invitation to attend the Blue & Gold Wine Tasting Night
- Invitation to attend the Blue & Gold Card Night
- Invitation to attend the annual DAC lunch and Tiger Baseball game
- Invitation to attend the Blue & Gold Spaghetti Dinner and Motivational Speaker Night

For more information or a copy of a brochure on Blue & Gold