

**Jane and Ken Brown**  
84 Exeter Drive  
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

September, 2008

Mrs. Colleen McNelis  
President  
Governor Livingston Band Parents Organization  
175 Watchung Boulevard  
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for the wonderful gifts and send off at the 2008 Awards Night! It is an evening we'll always remember. The wonderful performance of the Highlander Band, followed by good food and the great camaraderie of the Band members and their parents - just a fantastic evening! I love my plaque and will treasure it always! The flowers had to be the most beautiful bouquet I have ever received and I got to enjoy them for a good while because they lasted so long! I truly appreciate all of your thoughtfulness - it was too kind of you.

It seems ironic that you thanked me because I must thank *you* for the opportunities that the GLBPO gave my daughter, Nancy. The Band was her passion. It gave her so many things that we alone, as parents, could not have given to her. Being a Highlander Band member taught her to do her best, to take criticism and act upon it to improve, it gave her confidence, taught her how to be part of a team, to accept instruction from older peers, to give instruction to younger peers, to be demanding and understanding, and gave her lifelong friends. Nancy's Band commitment made her a master of time management and made her realize that she was part of a tradition and brotherhood that she shares with so many others who have worn plaid. I would hope that we planted the seeds for all those lofty virtues, but the validation that comes from achieving in the real world cannot be duplicated at home.

Our very gifted and patient instructors have a great hand in the development of our kids. However, the GLBPO is the grease that keeps the machine churning. It is through the hard work and commitment of all you wonderful folks that all of those "extras" are realized. We appreciate all you do. It was my pleasure to use my experience as former PTO Treasurer to be GLBPO Treasurer. But as someone who never did 'food', it was great fun and quite a learning experience to make chili for 60, and then to take on the Pasta Dinner! Like Nancy, we learned many lessons about ourselves, had lots of fun and made wonderful friends. I encourage all of you to continue the tradition. It is truly worth your while and the kids really do appreciate your efforts. I can honestly say based on my musical abilities, there would be no other way that I would ever be associated with a Band!

So, *thank you*, for all that you have done for us. Like those who have gone before us, we will always feel goose bumps when we hear "Scotland the Brave" and have tears in our eyes as red plaid kilts swoosh by. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".