

ROHS Combined Choirs January 2009 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar

- ♪ Friday January 30, 2009 Solo & Ensemble Festival @ Howell HS
- ♪ Saturday January 31, 2009 solo & Ensemble Festival @ Howell HS
- ♪ Thursday February 12, 2009 Spectrum Concert

Notes from the Director

Happy New Year to all choir families. Boy, are we lucky! If our snow day hit one day sooner, what a mess we would have had to deal with. Well, it didn't and the two Winter Concerts went smoothly.

Thank you to all parents for buying tickets and supporting your child in their musical interests.

Thank you also to all parents involved in setting up, donating and cleaning up from the afterglows. Set up was more difficult, to say the least, but you did it smoothly, AND WITH A SMILE. Thank you to all parents selling tickets, chaperoning, helping with performance clothing and of course selling flowers. Our students' success is directly attributed to your active involvement in your child's life. It really shows here at Royal Oak High School. Don't forget, Mr. Vier is also providing a CD of the Winter Concert, for a nominal fee, so please contact him for that beautiful keepsake. Thank you Mr. Vier for your hard work. I have kept all of my children's CD's from their high school performances. I love listening to the CD's and hearing the children develop and grow into fine young musicians!

January is upon us; therefore, so is SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL.

Attached to this newsletter is the table for our school's performance. Please refer to your child's warm up and performance time, and especially to their event number. You must check in at the door by name and event number. All performers must have two copies of each of their pieces and all the measures must be numbered or they will not get a rating. MAPS TO FOLLOW. All students going must arrive no later than 1/2 hour before their warm-up time. All students must be dressed appropriately. Only dress clothes and dress shoes are allowed. Think of this AS A PERFORMANCE. It looks great for small ensembles to dress in somewhat of a matching outfit of their choosing. All A Cappella students opted to sing at Solo & Ensemble Festival, in lieu of writing a critique paper. My only stipulation was that NO STUDENT DRIVE THEMSELVES TO HOWELL H.S. Only parents can drive. There have been too many lost students and the snowy weather is too unsafe. All A Cappella students will be taught their music by me and we are presently working on it in class as part of our daily work. Also, all A Cappella men must take their tux shirt home and get it cleaned before festival. THIS IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. Their outfit must be clean and wrinkle-free, since we are graded on our appearance. The girls of A Cappella are being divided into two groups, the silver and the royal blue group. Ask your daughter which group she's in and that will designate her performance time at the festival. The men of A Cappella will be called the Advanced Men's Ensemble.

Students have started their mid-term exam with me. This exam helps me assess my student's music reading ability and is a tool used to designate which choir your son or daughter is best suited for, at the present time. I give the exam in three parts, allowing students to take more time in class. All tests are hand-graded by me. Please check Pinnacle to see the progress of your child's grade. I am up to date with most students' grades and I am presently working on the exam portion of their grade. The best way to contact me is by e-mail. It is: buffad@royalookschools.com

Last week we held auditions for the upcoming SPECTRUM CONCERT. I had 40 auditions, which was the most I have ever had. The bar was most definitely raised this year. The talent was amazing and so creative. For those of you that have never seen the Spectrum concert, it is quite a show! The only ensembles in the show are A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers, and the Jazz Bands. All the rest of the performances are student picked songs with very interesting instrumentation. The unique thing about this concert is that there is NO APPLAUSE AT ALL UNTIL INTERMISSION AND AT THE END. The concert was modeled after the famous collage concert at the University of Michigan. If you have never seen a collage-type of concert, don't miss this one. There will be performances from all performing arts classes. You will be thoroughly entertained. Tickets order forms will be sent out by month's end.

ENJOY THE SNOW!!
Mrs. Deborah Buffa

Regarding Concerts

Flash photography and video cameras are not permitted. All communication equipment (cell phones, blackberrys, etc.) must be shut off during concerts. Please share this information with guests who may not receive these newsletters (grandparents, friends, etc.) so concerts are enjoyable for both the performers and the audience.

President's Notes

Happy New Year to our Choir Family! I hope everyone had a lovely holiday and got lot of rest since we have plenty to accomplish between now and June!

The Winter Concert was a beautiful example of our students' talent.

THANK YOU to the Board and Parent volunteers who made all the extras happen so smoothly to make it a truly enjoyable evening.

Your student should be bringing home a Little Caesars Pizza Kit order form this week: this is an easy sell for many families and we cannot stress enough how handy that personal account money comes in handy for choir expenses. We had good participation in our fall sale that was headed up by the Vienna travelers (thank you Rhonda Rolph) and with very little effort our general fund and the student accounts grew nicely. We are offering PRIZES for the top three in total dollar sales - perhaps it will get everyone motivated. Feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or if you need another order form. There will be a flyer with more information accompanying your form when your student brings it home. The money that goes into the choir general fund helps finance the spring banquet and other choir activities. A better sale gives our students more opportunities all around.

Keep an eye out for news on the Spectrum Concert Feb 12 - you'll want to order tickets soon.

Best of Luck to our Solo & Ensemble students as they prepare for this event at months end.

We're scouting around for next year's TEMPO Board. If you are interested in helping out in a more structured fashion, please contact me with any questions. It is light work of many hands and good friends. – Barb Tuohey

Fundraising Activities

Grocery Certificates – Earn money for your student’s account while grocery shopping. Purchase certificates for Hollywood Market and/or Oakridge Market. Grocery certificates will be sold before all choir concerts and at intermissions.

You may also contact Beth Harris at 248.543.6606 - mbscreen@wowway.com
or Lauri Peltonen at 248-435-3102 - lapeltonen@yahoo.com to arrange certificate purchases.

Little Caesar Pizza Kits - Due to the positive feedback from the last sale, we are once again offering pizza kits as a fundraiser (see President’s Notes). Flyers will be sent home with your student. Please look over the items offered – there is something for everyone!

There are also some other exciting fundraising events in the works and we will let everyone know about them as soon as all the details are worked out.

**Newsletters, order forms, etc. can be accessed on the PTSA website.
Go to www.rohsptsa.org and click on Choir Programs.**

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