

ROHS Combined Choirs Newsletter

October 2009

Mark Your Calendar

November 13 / Women Only Workshop
Dec. 5 / Regional Honors Choir Concert
Dec. 16 & 17 / Winter Concert
January 22-23 / Michigan Music Conference
January 29-30 / Solo & Ensemble Festival

Notes from the Director

Thank you all for supporting the vocal music program and attending our Autumn Concert. I felt that the students did a really great job considering school started so late this year. Thank you to all parent drivers that helped with the Cider Mill and Pumpkin Carving Gathering. The students had a great time and their pumpkins really were a hit at the concert!

Thank you parents of Ryan E, Jamie L, Austin B, Wil, and students Craig S and Howie V for driving to the For Men Only Workshop on Oct. 28th. This type of fieldtrip would not be possible without your support!

The following students will be singing at the Regional Honors Choir Concert on Dec. 5th. Bill L, Valerie S and Myah J. CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE AT YOUR AUDITION.

Performance clothing user fees of \$25 for ALL choir students are due by Nov. 6, which is the end of the first card marking. Incompletes will be issued to any student that has outstanding fees, missing tests and missing music. Please ask your child if this applies to them. Check Pinnacle on a regular basis to keep up with your son or daughter's grade.

Girls in ALL choirs are eligible to attend the For Women Only Workshop which will be held on Nov. 13 from 9:00 a.m. to approx. 1:30 p.m. This is a school field trip by bus. Ask your daughter if she signed up for this fieldtrip. The cost is \$5 and due ASAP. I need chaperones. Please e-mail me if you are available.

In the second card marking, ALL choir students will need to write a one page review of a live performance. This CRITIQUE will be due before we leave for winter break. Or, choir students may participate in the Solo & Ensemble Festival and get critiqued. Soloists cost \$10 and small ensembles of 2-5 cost \$20. All performers need someone to teach them and an accompanist. Most accompanists charge \$40 per event. The list of voice teachers and accompanists is on the bulletin board outside the choir room. Solo and Ensemble Festival is Friday or Saturday, January 29-30, at Howell High School.

We are working on our winter concert music. This concert brings back alumni and also the local community. It is well attended by all and tickets go fast. The dates are Wed. & Thurs. (Dec. 16 & 17) at ROHS, at 7 p.m. Ticket request forms for the winter concert are not available yet. Clothing requirements for this show is as follows: A Cappella Choir - girls wear Homecoming type of clothes; guys wear shirts & ties, jackets, if possible. Royal Oak Singers - all wear appropriate looking P.J's (most wear sweats with t-shirts). Concert Choir - wear black pants with holiday colored (red, green or white) tops. Women's Ensemble - black skirts with black tops, or black dresses (we will decide on accessories). Chamber Singers - wear creative costumes and its a SURPRISE!

Reminder: The all school play, "Into the Woods" will be Friday, through Sunday, Nov. 13-15. THIS IS A GREAT SHOW FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER TO CRITIQUE FOR THEIR MUSIC PAPER!

Please read the following letter from our Superintendent. More information is on the district website. We have such a fine department and students that love to perform. This would be devastating to all!

Mrs. Deborah Buffa

A Letter From Superintendent Moline

Dear Royal Oak Schools Parents, Staff and Community:

The School District of the City of Royal Oak has suffered three major reductions in state revenue this month: October 8 - \$165 per pupil from legislative budget approval (\$891,000) - October 19 - \$261 per pupil by Governor's 20j veto (\$1,400,000) - October 22 - \$127 per student - Governor's Executive Order (\$685,000)

In total, our school system is expected to absorb nearly \$3 million dollars of reduction in anticipated state revenue (\$553 per pupil) within our current operations even though we are now four months into our fiscal year.

By the accounts of editors and columnists in the news media, Michigan school districts are caught in a political dispute in Lansing. IT NEEDS TO STOP. A student's education should not be held hostage by lawmakers.

Over the next few days, I encourage you to contact the decision makers in Lansing to express your opinions about our major reductions and the impact they will have on the School District of the City of Royal Oak. Our governmental heads need to hear that under-funding education is not acceptable to their constituents. Our children are our future. Nothing will chase people out of Michigan faster than low quality schools.

Additional information for contacting our Governor and local political leaders with key points to make in your message can be found on the front of the www.royaloakschools.com website.

Thank you for your support of our students and the School District of the City of Royal Oak.

Sincerely,
Dr. Thomas L. Moline
Superintendent

Notes From TEMPO President

Hello Choir Parents,

Now that the school year is underway, the classes are now in the process of singing their songs for the Christmas Concert. I can't believe Christmas is only a short two months away. My how time flies. Don't forget that we have assigned seats for our concerts, so be sure to buy your tickets early. We will also have flowers and poinsettias for sale at the concerts, as well as an afterglow. Our parent reps will be in further contact with you to ask for your help.

Now, onto a more serious matter. You may have heard that our school district has some definite budget deficit issues. Currently on the chopping block, among other things, is the band and music department. What I mean by the chopping block is they want to get rid of the whole fine arts department. WHAT A DEVASTATING AND DISASTEROUS STEP THIS WOULD BE. **We need to, as parents and music patrons, attend the board meetings and voice our opinions and concerns.** The next very important meeting is November 12th. We need as many music representatives there as possible to show that we have a large body of concerned parents. Between the band and music departments we have 200 students, 22% of the ROHS student body. Let's attend the meetings and show the board that we are concerned and are not going to sit back and take what they continually seem to try and dish out, and that they need to be creative and find a different means to their budget deficit.

Rose Pomroy
President of TEMPO

Fundraising Activities

Little Caesars Fundraiser – Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser checks and order forms are to be turned in to Mrs. Buffa no later than Wed. Nov. 18. Orders will be delivered to ROHS on Wed. Dec. 2. Please make arrangements to pick up your orders between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. that day.

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 or contact your grocery certificate representative below.

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

Debbie Buffa, Choir Director 248.435.8500 ext. 1019 or buffad@royaloakschools.com, **Rose Pomroy**, President 248.588.9385 or R_Pomroy@hotmail.com, **Diane Flynn-Hahn**, TEMPO Vice President 248.548.7445 or dfhahn@schoolcraft.edu, **Janell Vier**, TEMPO Vice President 248.543.9067 or bvier@aol.com, **Sue Mutschler**, TEMPO Treasurer 248.585.5722 or sumu343@wowway.com, **Diane Vaphiadis**, Recording Secretary 248.935.9021 or vaphiadis@wowway.com, **Patty Brown**, Corresponding Secretary 248.543.1011 or lobeybrown@yahoo.com, **Lauri Peltonen**, Grocery Certificates/Fundraising 248.435.3102 or lapeltonen@yahoo.com, **Beth Harris**, Grocery Certificates/Fundraising 248.543.6606 or mbscreen@wowway.com, **Pam Jaslove**, Flowers 248.505.9078 or jaslovepam@gmail.com, **Barb Harris**, Wardrobe 248.589-1716 or jbjbharris@sbcglobal.net, **Kathie Grant**, Wardrobe 248.435.3314 or kathiegrantm@yahoo.com, **Becky Stange**, Wardrobe 248.549.7764 or teamstange@wowway.com,

A Cappella Parent Rep, Cathy MacKillop 248-280-2764 or cmackill@wowway.com and Christine Dippel 586-489-7544 or cdippelrn@hotmail.com

Concert Choir, Margaret Rearick 248-224-9865 or margaretrearick@aol.com and April Potter 248-229-0158 or aprilcatalina@wowway.com

Women's Ensemble Parent Rep, Lillian Beatty 248-417-2343 or swampbosswife@aol.com and Candace Campbell www.marquee2012@yahoo.com

Royal Oak Singers Parent Rep, Heidi Francis 248-275-8828, Susan Force 248-543-4442 and forces@tteenergy.com, Kathy Bennett 248-544-9134 or ktbennett@hotmail.com and Judy Hammond-Jackson 248-212-6707 or jchamjack@comcast.net