

MSAD #29 MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Houlton High School
7 Bird Street
Houlton, ME 04730

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MSAD #29 MUSIC BOOSTERS

SUPPORTING AND UPHOLDING A TRADITION OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Thank you to all the parents who have assisted us in our most recent music boosters activities: Ken Bickford for the yard work fundraisers, Dorothy Widhalm for Schwan's sales, Becky Tuttle for tracking all of the trip credits, and Denise Hannigan for organizing bottle drive drop off, jewelry sales, and for tracking of trip payments. A big thank you to all the parents who helped with the All Aroostook/All State auditions this past Saturday - the day went very smoothly!

If you are a parent that is still interested in helping out for upcoming events, give us a call or an email and we will notify the chair person of that particular activity. We have a few more fundraisers that are going to close out November and December activities.

Pizza Hut Card sales will come to a close in December, please have students return money or unsold cards by December 12.

Shopping time is here and we will have a special jewelry display the nights of the musical so that you can buy jewelry as a gift for someone (or yourself) and in return portions of the sale will go directly to the music boosters. There will be representatives set up in a class room near the auditorium to assist you with your purchase and a percentage of sales will go toward the NYC trip!

The Dessert Buffet during the musical is always a great feast! Thank you to all those parents that have donated water or goodies.

Pizza Hut night, November 24, 4-8pm. All you have to do is come and eat, bring the flyer that is found in this newsletter or pick one up that evening. This is a great fundraising activity, not only because all you have to do is eat, there is actually no extra work for the boosters. If you turn in a slip to the waitstaff when you pay, 15% of total sales goes to the music boosters. How easy is that!

Home and Garden Party catalogue sale is a great way to buy gifts of cookies, mixes, candles and other items. All students should turn in the catalogue and money by December 1, so orders may be filled and returned in time for the holidays.

Do you need your driveway plowed, or want \$200 from Dead River Company, or gift cards, then buy a raffle ticket from music students. All of the items were generously donated by local businesses and give us an opportunity to raise funds without any previous expenses. Thank you donors. The drawing will be held December 4, the night of the HHS Band and Chorus Concert. Find an extensive list of how students can earn NYC trip credits here: http://www.sad29music.org/MSAD_29_Music/Trip_Credits.html

Volume 8, Issue 2: NOVEMBER 2008

SHIRETOWN SOUNDS

MSAD #29 Music Department Newsletter

FOOTLOOSE
the **MUSICAL**

FOOTLOOSE OPENS THIS FRIDAY AT HHS!

Go back to the 1980s this weekend with the cast of FOOTLOOSE. Every fall, the music department produces a fully-staged Broadway musical - an event that is always a highlight of the season for the community. The cast of Footloose has been working hard since August. But they couldn't do it alone! HHS Alum Brandi Hill has created exciting dance numbers. Pam Chernesky has been a great acting coach to many of our cast members. Scott Walker has been at full cast rehearsals since August, helping the cast learn their music. Joe Fagnant and his dedicated team of students on the tech crew have designed, built, and painted great sets for the show. Mr. F. also leads our pit of professional musicians who all sound amazing! We have worked hard and are very excited to share this show with the community.

The senior class this year has demon-

Nov 21, 7pm • Nov 22, 7pm • Nov 23, 3pm
\$8 Adults • \$5 Student (thru gr 12)/ Senior Citizen

strated great leadership in rehearsals and on stage. A big thank you to all 15 actors and 2 tech crew members - we will definitely miss you next year!

Community members have been a great help with costumes. We have had many authentic prom dresses worn in the 80s donated to our show. The final scene will look especially great - thanks!!

SYNOPSIS

When Ren (Caleb Richardson) and his mother (Emily Gendron) move from Chicago to a small farming town, Ren is

prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher (Josh McFarland), determined to exercise the control over the town's youth that he cannot command in his own home. When the reverend's rebellious daughter (Meghan Maker) sets her sights on Ren, her roughneck boyfriend (Zacharia Harvey) tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. The heartfelt story that emerges is of a father longing for the son he lost and of a young man aching for the father who walked out on him. Stephannie Kreyszig plays the reverend's wife, Vi. Emily McGary, Justine Anderson and Marina DiMarco play Ariel's best friends.

Lowell Matthews is Willard, Ren's

buddy. Annie Nickerson croons as the Bar-B-Que soloist. Craig Thomas, Sarah Gentle, Ellie Widhalm, Kelsey Theriault, Ashton Carmichael, Dustin Delano, Robby Stairs, Tyler Delano, Anna Caron, Gabe Hannigan, Michelle Green, Cody Woods, Wyatt Jenkins, and Tyler Swimm have supporting roles. There is a fabulous chorus of teens and adults that round out our 58-member cast!

I look forward to opening night so that our cast and crew can showcase their talent. ~ Rebecca DeWan, director

FIND A COMPLETE LIST ON OUR WEBSITE!

Upcoming Events

Booster Activities

Musical Fundraisers: Dessert buffet, Lia Sophia Jewelry Sales

**Monday, November 24, 4-8pm
Pizza Hut Fundraiser**

A percentage of profits will go toward the Booster's trip to NYC.

MEETING: Monday, December 15, 7pm, Houlton High School Room 32

Buy **Pizza Hut discount cards** at \$8 a piece and get \$75 worth of coupons.

HS Band/Chorus

**Thursday, December 4, 7pm,
Concert at Houlton High School**
Also Featuring: Flute Ensemble, "Off Beat," and Chamber Choir

**Tuesday, December 9, 9am-10am
Special Assembly:** Focus on the Arts
Concert for Southside students

JH Band/Chorus Concert

Thursday, December 11, 7pm
Special combined number of holiday favorites

**Community Chorus
Concert**

**Friday, December 12, 7pm
Houlton High School**
The Houlton High School Chorus joins the Community Chorus for a holiday concert.

SMALL AND NOTEWORTHY ARTICLES

GarageBand Magic

Students in Ms. DeWan's Music Appreciation class have been exploring how music affects the mood of moving images. Students first rescored the music for a political ad using GarageBand. They rewrote music to change the mood of the ad. For instance, if it was originally a pro-Obama ad, they added different music to make it sound anti-Obama. Students discovered that, without changing anything visually, the message of an ad can dramatically change just by what's playing in the background. They also added new music to movie trailers using GarageBand. Examples of student work can be found on the music department's blog on their website: www.sad29music.org.

Musical Swap: Collaboration in the County

Many cast members of HHS's FOOTLOOSE took a trip to Presque Isle High School to see their musical production of *Seussical*. It was a great opportunity for our students to see their peers in action. We look forward to seeing the cast of *Seussical* at our opening night. Thanks to the parents who chaperoned the trip!

Houlton Community Arts Center Contracting Soon...

Support the Houlton Rotary club auction where they will be raising funds for the community arts center and also feature an auditorium seat campaign.

The art center will officially move into the next phase of planning at the December school board meeting, as we partner with MSAD #29 to bring about the phase one construction plans starting next year. The December school board meeting will bring about a contract to renovate the auditorium and create a new entry from the back parking lot of HHS.

Check out the HCAC website: www.houltonarts.org

Joe Fagnant, President, Houlton Community Arts Center Council

How to Get to NYC

There is an old joke that goes "How do you get to Carnegie Hall in New York City....practice!" Well how do we get 160 students to New York City.... \$100,000, and that is no joke. The music parents and students have been doing a fantastic job in raising funds for this monumental trip, but we still have a long way to go. When we knew that this trip was coming up in our two-year cycle, we understood that finances for the trip would be larger than our last Boston trip or our previous NYC trip. What we only had a chance to find out at the beginning of this year was that our numbers for high school band and chorus jumped about 40 students more than past trip counts. It is great to have an increased enrollment, and perhaps some of that is because of the trip, but it also creates a larger budget for travel for an extra bus, more hotel rooms and tickets to shows and events.

So as a booster organization, we are in a challenging position, supporting a trip for so many students especially during these economic times. In the spring of 2007, the parents that were at the last meeting of the year wanted us to move ahead and try to raise the necessary funds. **NYC is still a goal of ours and our financial situation will be reconsidered at the end of November. If we are still on track with our funding goals, then NYC will become a reality.** If we are behind on our goals, then we will make adjustments to the trip, most likely moving to a festival in Boston, which will cost us less overall.

We have always provided activities and events that raise funds for the boosters, that also bring people to the community and highlight the great musical efforts of our students and the expertise of our parents in hosting festivals. We have added additional fundraising items this year that will hopefully bring us additional funds for a trip of this magnitude. It is a challenge and we are well aware of the impact on students and families. If any parent does have a question about cost of the trip or other fundraising concerns, you are welcome to come to a music booster meeting or feel free to contact Joe Fagnant, department chair. By working together we will provide an enjoyable music festival experience in May of 2009.

PLAN AHEAD PARENTS

Please check the online calendar for updates and see our schedule of concerts & basketball games.

With many activities coming up, please make sure you are aware of our black and white concert dress requirement for our large groups.

Concert Dress:

There is nothing more rewarding than a successful concert after a semester of hard work. We work with exceptionally talented students, and we feel that it is important that our appearance match our level of musicianship. Therefore, we are instituting a dress code for all of our concerts and trips, grades 7-12:

GUYS: black pants, black belt, black socks, dark dress shoes, white button down shirt, tie (NO SNEAKERS)

GIRLS: black dress pants or skirt (at least knee length), black nylons/tights, black shoes (closed-toed are preferred), white collared button down shirt (NO FLIP FLOPS/NO SNEAKERS)

If you need assistance, our costume loft is filled with items that can be borrowed. By adhering to this dress code, our students will not only look professional, but their unified outward appearance will match their wonderful sound, allowing audience members to focus on what is most important: the music. Please contact any of the music teachers with questions or concerns.

High School Winter Concert
Thursday, December 4, 7pm
Students report at 6:30

Junior High Winter Concert
Thursday, December 11, 7pm
Students report at 6:30

www.sad29music.org

High School Chorus and Junior High Chorus News

High school chorus is almost 100-members strong this year! With this exciting number of singers, I anticipate a wonderful sound at our concert. They have shown great strength and drive in our rehearsals thus far.

We look forward to sharing our holiday concert program with you. In addition to the masterwork "How lovely is Thy dwelling place" by Brahms, the chorus is singing Masters in This Hall - a piece which features a four-part mens section - and a fun holiday tune Skatin' With My Baby.

The HS Chorus has two performances this December: our annual concert shared with the HS Band on December 4 and a combined concert with the Community Chorus on December 12. Please mark the

family calendar with the extra rehearsal on Tuesday, December 9 at 7pm. This is necessary so we can meet with the Community Chorus members to rehearse our combined pieces.

Many students auditioned for All State Chorus and All Aroostook Chorus this past Saturday, November 15. I heard many positive reactions from students on their way out of their auditions. Results will be available soon and posted on the website. Congratulations to all students who auditioned - I am proud of you!

The Chamber Choir has already had their first performance, and will sing again at the December 4 concert. They will also travel to the hospital and to Madigans before the winter break.

Junior High Chorus has made such

exciting leaps and bounds in terms of their "singingout" ability. They are really starting to get into their music. I anticipate a great concert on December 11. Mr. Mania and I always enjoy showcasing the Junior High Musicians at our annual concert, this year on Thursday, December 11. We will be combining forces on one number: a medley of favorite holiday tunes. Can't wait to see you there!

Each ensemble has its own website that has current information regarding concerts, assignments, and policies. Check it out! Please contact me with questions and concerns! I always enjoy hearing from you! Parents are the key completing the triangle of success: students, teachers, and parents!

~ Rebecca DeWan, 5-12 Vocal Music

Concert Theme: A Winter's Dawn

The HHS Band had an additional performance this fall with a home soccer game added to the calendar. I really appreciate the dedication of the students as they made adjustments in their personal schedules to help support their friends on the soccer team. I know the school, team and parents appreciate the band's commitment. The fall of the year quickly leads into the winter concert season.

The band has been preparing hard for the **December 4th Winter Concert** where we will feature a theme concert titled A Winter's Dawn. We hope that the music depicts the sounds of the seasons, but also what winter is all about, snow and cold! Included in that concert is an

exciting fanfare based on "Joy to the World," our theme song "A Winter's Dawn," and also our version of the soundtrack "Home Alone 2, Stuck in New York." Not only is it a challenging piece, we can also relate many scenes of the movie to our upcoming trip to New York City. The exciting piece students are enjoying is also one that does not necessarily focus on the fun of winter, but "a date that will live in infamy." We will present a special concert selection titled: "At Dawn They Slept: December 7, 1941." It is a programmatic work that depicts the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The concert will also feature a selection by the student led flute ensemble and will open with two selections by the

HHS percussion ensemble, "Off Beat." The jazz program is once again offering students the opportunity to perform in either the Jazz Band or the Jazz Ensemble. Jazz Ensemble will kick in after the musical is done and will rehearse during the band sectional times. I hope that students will commit strongly to these groups, especially as we go into concert and festival time. If the schedule works out, there will be a small Jazz Combo this year. Please encourage your children to take part in all the extra curricular music organizations we have at Houlton Jr./Sr. High School. There are a lot of wonderful opportunities to perform in a variety of ensembles. ~Joe Fagnant, HHS Band "Commitment to Excellence"

JH Concert Season - and holiday gift ideas!

Concert season is just around the corner for the Jr. High Band. Currently we are working hard at preparing a wonderful winter concert. You will hear several songs that you are familiar with that will get you in the holiday mood, as well as some great band literature that will leave you wanting more!

The band members have been working very hard on some challenging music. Along with the challenge of our concert music we are also working on music for the varsity basketball games. Words can't express how proud I am of these fine

young musicians. I keep pushing them to achieve new levels of musicality, and they always step up and give me more.

As we get closer to the holidays some of these young musicians may be looking for some new musical instruments and accessories. There are many different types of products out there including play-along books, metronomes, tuners, cases, mouthpieces, etc. Please feel free to contact me with any questions as to what would be a great addition to their musical growth. I can even have things delivered from Aroostook Music to me here at the school for greater convenience to you.

In closing, I want to emphasize that practice is the key to all successful music programs. These young musicians are expected to practice a minimum of 60 minutes a week, which needs to be logged on their practice calendar.

Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to seeing all of you at the winter concert on December 11th at 7:00 p.m. Students must be there at 6:30. Please read the dress code - we want to look as great as we sound!

~ Kevin Mania, Jr. High Band