**DRAMA CLUB PARENT ASSOCIATION**

**OVERVIEW 2017-2018**

**Email: nhdramaparents@gmail.com**

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Drama Club Parent Association, which exists to help support the North Hills Drama Club and its two annual productions. The Drama Club could not be a success without your help and support throughout the year. We will only meet in person two times this year (October and January); we do the rest of our communication via emails. The majority of email communication will be coming from [nhdramaparents@gmail.com](mailto:nhdramaparents@gmail.com). You can use this address if you have any questions regarding the Drama Club. Please keep this overview as a reference throughout the coming year, but don’t hesitate to reach out with specific questions at any time.

**FIRST, some important dates for your calendars:**

**🞟** Program ads due for “Pride and Prejudice”: October 16

🞟 Election Day Bake Sale, Tuesday, November 7 – all day. Volunteers and donations are needed.

🞟 Fall play “Pride and Prejudice”: Thursday 11/9, Friday, 11/10 at 7:30 pm, and Saturday, 11/11

at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm

🞟 Fall play cast party: Saturday, November 11, immediately following the 7:30 show at Christ Lutheran Church, 157 Peony Avenue (near Highcliff Elementary)

🞟 Spring Musical – “Dames at Sea”: March 8-10 & March 15-17, 2018

(7 shows total – 6 evening, 1 matinee)

**What is the Drama Club Parent Association?**

* A group of parents and other adults who support the efforts of the Drama Club by helping out during show weekends, doing some fundraising, helping with set and costumes to some degree, and generally supporting the students in the Club — aka, a booster club for the Drama Club.
* ***If your child is in the cast, crew or orchestra, we kindly request that you volunteer some time to make these shows a success***. There are many ways to help!

**Who is in charge of the Drama Club?**

* **Mr. Glen Richey** is the Director for both the fall play and the spring musical. He is always willing to talk to parents if they have concerns. You can reach him at gl46richey@aol.com or 412-369-8114. Phone is often the faster way to reach him.
* **Mr. Kevin Richey** is the Assistant Director and Drama Club Sponsor through the school district. Kevin oversees the tech crew. He will be the person we hear from regarding props needed, and he puts the show programs together. The deadline to submit program ads for the fall show is October 16. The email address for fall ads is PrideandPrejudiceProgramAds@gmail.com. You can always reach Kevin about any other topics at kevin.m.richey@gmail.com or 412-973-1796.
* **Mr. Shaun Cloonan** is the Musical Director. He directs the choir and teaches music at the school. He will work with the students on voice and arrangement during the spring musical. You can reach him at CloonanS@nhsd.net or 412-318-1400 (voice mail box: 3047).
* **Ms. Lauren Sarazen** is the Choreographer. She will create the choreography for the spring musical. You can reach her at ltsarazen@gmail.com.
* **Ms. Stephanie Fairley** – Costume Manager. She will pick costumes and work with the students on alterations, mending, etc. She can be reached at fairleys@nhsd.net. If you have sewing expertise, contact Stephanie or send a message to nhdramaparents@gmail.com, because sewing assistance is often needed.
* **Ms. Robin DeGregory** – Set Designer.Robin works with the students during set construction. Sometimes there is a specific need with the set and we may ask if there are any parents with expertise in that area.
* **Mr. Anthony Thomas** is the Orchestra Director for the Student Orchestra. He will be involved in the spring with the musical and prepares the band and orchestra students who make up the student orchestra. He can be reached at thomasa@nhsd.net.
* **Mrs.** **Sharon Pritchard** – Sharon is the pianist for the spring musical.

**How do the adult leaders work with students and make show/casting choices?**

* The directors try to pick plays and musicals in advance to fit the talent of the students who are likely to continue in the Club and who they think might join the Club as they come up from the Middle School. For example, a few years ago, they knew they had a lot of talented dancers and knew some new students could dance, so they picked a dance heavy show like *42nd Street*. Typically the musical will have a big cast as you can have more students in the ensemble. The fall play is harder to choose in the sense that very few plays are written with 20 or more parts or with lots of female parts. They don’t know what shows they will do next year yet, but they will be thinking about it all year.
* For auditions, they use a scale or rubric with at least three people rating each audition for fall and at least four people doing so in spring. Afterwards, they go through the students in the order of audition scores and cast the show. When two or more students have equal scores and seem equally talented for a role, they debate (maybe even argue) to try to make the best pick. Then the students’ additional service to the Club (coming on Saturdays to create the set for example) or their general behavior on set in the past will weigh into the choice. The hardest part is that they cannot always cast all the talented students they have. It is also hard to see a talented student have a bad audition.
* They want parents and students to know that not getting cast in one show **does not** mean that a person would not be cast in another, or that a person would not get a big part in the other. Some students shine in acting and get a big part in the fall play; others are great at dance but their acting is not as strong, so they may get a featured part in the spring musical. The directors hope that all interested students will stay involved in some capacity.

**Who are the key volunteers for the Drama Club Parent Association?**

There are no officers in the Parent Association. Instead, there are three volunteers who are equal but have different roles. We are also looking for a Fundraising Lead this year if anyone is interested in filling this role.

* **Cindy Fusco**, Co-Coordinator. Leads communications such as newsletters and emails. Contact her through email: nhdramaparents@gmail.com or text: 412-302-1276 (cell)
* **Maureen Pearson**, Co-Coordinator. Leads volunteer scheduling for shows and events such as the Fall Bake Sale. Contact her through email: nhdramaparents@gmail.com or text: 412-377-1312 (cell)
* **Patty Parkhill,** Co-Coordinator and Treasurerof theDrama Parent Association. Manages all finances. Email: pattyparkhill@gmail.com

We also have volunteers who lead specific tasks throughout the year:

* **Sandie Lyle and Jody Mawhinney**, Flower Table Coordinators. Email: lylesandie@gmail.com, jodyiup777@hotmail.com
* **Laurie Medfisch and Bonnie McCreary**, Show Candy Coordinators. Email: mmedfisch@yahoo.com, kbmc2@msn.com
* **Melanie Karpinski,** Cookie Table Coordinator. Email: mnkarpinski@gmail.com
* **Sue Rodack,** Election Day Bake Sale Coordinator. Email: suerodack@gmail.com
* **Heather Margo and Maureen Pearson,** Basket Raffle Coordinators.Email: dh.margo@verizon.net,mpearson993@comcast.net

Finally, we have some open positions:

* **Fundraising Lead** — We’re looking for someone with an interest or experience in fundraising to help generate funds throughout the school year
* **Spring Luncheon Coordinators** — Coordinate food, decorations, etc. for the cast luncheon for “Dames at Sea” on Saturday, March 10
* **Spring Cast Party Coordinators** — Coordinate food, decorations, etc. for the cast party for “Dames at Sea” on Saturday, March 17

Please volunteer for any of these positions by emailing nhdramaparents@gmail.com.

**What are some other volunteer opportunities?**

* We need **many** volunteers to accomplish everything. Donations of time and items are both valued and appreciated.
* For the shows, we need 8 to 12 lobby volunteers per show to staff the tables.
* For the shows, we may also need sewing/ironing volunteers to work on costumes.
* Selling program ads or soliciting donations from businesses is always appreciated. People love to support the Drama Club!

**Why is fundraising so important?**

* Ticket sales for shows go directly to the district. They are not part of the funds we use to finance the shows, cast parties, etc.
* The Drama Club Parent Association raises money throughout the year to fund cast luncheons, parties, etc. When we have excess funds, we can also purchase things to make the shows better. For example, in 2016-2017, the Association replaced some microphones to improve the quality of our shows. However, we can only do this with the help of parent volunteers who are focused on fundraising.

**How are funds raised during the fall play and spring musical?**

* **Program ads:** Please consider selling some program ads, either personal ads or business ads.
* **Flower sales in the lobby:** We do this at both shows. People can buy flowers and balloons for cast and crew members and send them backstage. We make more on flower sales in the spring simply because there are more shows and usually a bigger cast.
* **Candy sales in the lobby** (in connection with the flower table): We will do this at both shows too. We sell candy for a small profit which can be sent backstage. We recently increased the price and sold the most candy we’ve ever sold. It seems to be becoming as popular as the flowers and balloons.
* **Cookie table in the lobby:** Each family will get a schedule for donating cookies to the show. You will be asked to donate 3 dozen cookies. People who come to the show donate in dollars what they feel is fair for the cookies. We sell coffee, water bottles and juice pouches for a dollar at the table. This is virtually all profit, as almost everything is donated.
* **Gift basket raffle in the lobby:** This will be our fourth year doing the basket raffle. This has become one of our most profitable fundraisers. We can always use gift cards, tickets, etc. to help create the baskets. Please contact Heather Margo or Maureen Pearson if you are able to help in this area.
* **Restaurant fundraisers:** Last year we coordinated restaurant fundraisers at Chipotle & TGI Fridays. The students and many parents go to Fridays (Friday night) after the show and they agreed to donate back a portion of the checks from our group. Chipotle will donate 50% of sales one time per year; we are planning this for the fall.

**How are funds raised at other times?**

* **Election Day Bake Sale:** The sale is held in the middle school in the hallway leading to the gyms where the polls are. Each family is asked to donate baked goods for the sale, and the students primarily run the whole thing, with one parent being present (2 hour shifts throughout the day). Sue Rodack is taking the lead on this, and Kevin Richey will put in the reservations for the tables. If you are willing to work a two-hour shift at the table, contact us at nhdramaparents@gmail.com.
* ***We are currently looking for other fundraising ideas!*** Please feel free to share your ideas with us at nhdramaparents@gmail.com.

**What are some costs I can expect if my son or daughter is cast in a show?**

* **Costume-related costs:** The show provides costumes. You are responsible to buy the shoes. For each show, Ms. Fairley will let us know what they need. She will talk to them in the next couple of weeks about their specific costumes. You may also need to buy undergarments which work with the costumes depending upon the show and what your child already has (this generally applies more to the girls (leotards) than the boys).
* **Makeup:** New students are each required to purchase theater make up so there is a consistent stage look. For infection control reasons, they are not permitted to share. The cost is between $20 and $25 for the makeup set. If the show requires extensive makeup, the Club covers that but the student still needs the primary set.
* **T-shirts:** The students generally design and buy a t-shirt with the show logo on the front and the cast & crew printed on the back. They are usually around $10, but can be a few dollars more depending upon the design and if multiple colors are used, etc.
* **A small fee for the spring luncheon.** Think of it like a banquet only you don’t pay nearly as much (perhaps $10). This varies from year to year based upon the theme and the donations we can get. We would like to cater the luncheon to ensure that we have an adequate amount of food, but may ask parents to donate drinks and desserts this year to cut down on costs.
* **Directors gifts.** There will also be a collection for directors gifts. The amount varies on this.
* **Cost of your donations** of cookies, bake sale items, or other food for cast parties.

As you can see, we are a busy group! Thank you so much for your willingness to help our kids have a great experience in the North Hills Drama Club this year!

***\*MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK\****