

DRAMA CLUB PARENT ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW

Email: nhdramaparents@gmail.com

Welcome to the 2016-2017 Drama Club Parent Association! We will meet in person 2 times this year (September and January) and do the rest of our work via email and minimal phone calls. Please keep this information as a reference throughout the coming year. The majority of email communication will be coming from nhdramaparents@gmail.com. Please use this address if you have any questions regarding the Drama Club.

Important Dates for Your Calendars:

- ♦ Program Ads due for “The Bringham Review”: Friday, October 14
- ♦ Election Day Bake Sale, Tuesday, November 8 – all day. Volunteers and donations are needed.
- ♦ Fall Play “The Bringham Review”: Thursday 11/17, Friday, 11/18 at 7:30 pm, and Saturday, 11/19 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
- ♦ Cast Party: typically after the Saturday evening show, Saturday, 11/19 (last year, it was held at a cast member’s home and the kids pitched in money for pizza and drinks).
- ♦ Spring Musical – “Me and My Girl” March 23-25 & March 30, 31 & April 1, 2017 (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—a.k.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 willing to talk to parents if they have concerns. You can reach him at gl4richey@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 Friday, October 14. You can reach him at TheBringhamReviewProgramAds@gmail.com or 412-973-1796. He will change this email address for the spring musical.
- **Mr. Sean 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: 3047).
- **Ms. Lauren Sarazen** is the Choreographer. She will create the choreography for the spring musical. You can reach her at Itsarazen@gmail.com.
- **Ms. Harriet Valliant** – Costume Manager. She will pick costumes and work with the students on alterations, mending, etc. Harriet could use a few people who know how to sew, if you are interested, please email nhdramaparents@gmail.com
- **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 more 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 drama 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 all will stay involved in some capacity.

Who is in the lead for the Drama Parent Association?

- **Laurie Medfisch**, Co-Coordinator. Assures the Club is organized, creates newsletters, makes sure tables are staffed at the shows, etc. To volunteer or donate, contact her via email: nhdramaparents@gmail.com or text: 412-303-9541 (cell)
- **Bonnie McCreary**, Co-Coordinator. Assists with emails, scheduling volunteers, questions, etc. Email: nhdramaparents@gmail.com
- **Ed & Jodi Tonarelli** – Treasurer of the Drama Parent Association & Gift Basket Raffle Coordinators. Email: etonarelli@aol.com
- **Open, Flower Table Coordinator** – Coordinate with florist, gather supplies needed for sales
- **Cathy Mann**, Show Candy Coordinator - cam62059@verizon.net
- **Melanie Karpinski**, Cookie Table Coordinator - mnkarpinski@gmail.com
- **Open, Spring Luncheon Coordinator(s) – 2 people** - Coordinate food, decorations, etc.
- **Open, Election Day Bake Sale Lead Parent** - **Immediate need of someone to coordinate** (see below)
- **Open, Hoagie Sale Coordinator** - Sale will be in the spring

If you are interested or have time to take the lead on some part of this, please let Laurie or Bonnie know via nhdramaparents@gmail.com.

Volunteering

- We need **many** of volunteers to accomplish everything. Donations of time and items are both valued and appreciated.
- We need people to be in the lead for various parts of the shows. See above.
- For the shows, we need 8 to 12 lobby volunteers per show to staff the tables.
- For the spring show, we anticipate needing sewing/ironing volunteers to work on costumes. Ms. Valliant will also need two assistants to help her with costumes.
- Selling program ads or soliciting donations from businesses for the fundraisers.

Why are we fundraising and how does fundraising run?

- Ticket sales for shows go directly to the district. They are not part of our fundraising.
- At show time we have several fundraisers:
 - **Program Ads:** Please consider selling some program ads, either personal ads or business ads.
 - **Flower Table:** We do this at both shows. People can buy flowers & balloons for cast & 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:** (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 increased the price from \$1 to \$1.50 last year and sold the most candy we've ever sold. It seems to be becoming as popular as the flowers & balloons.
 - **Cookie Table:** 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:** This will be our third year doing the basket raffle. The Tonarelli's put together some amazing baskets last year and they were a big hit at both shows. This has become one of our most profitable fundraisers. We can always use gift cards, tickets, etc. to help create the baskets. Please contact Ed or Jodi Tonarelli if you are able to help in this area.
 - **Restaurant Fundraisers:** Last year Ed Tonarelli 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, last year we did it in the spring.
- Outside of show time, our other fundraisers are:
 - **Election Day Bake Sale:** The sale is held in the middle school in the hallway leading to the gyms where the polls are. As we all know, this year is a Presidential election year. The polls will be very busy which will allow us to make a good profit. **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). Kevin Richey will put in the reservations for the tables. **We are looking for someone to take the lead on this.** This will involve setting up the sale around 6:30 am, and making sure all supplies are present (the Club already has most of the supplies needed). If you are willing to be the lead, contact Laurie Medfisch or Bonnie McCreary via nhdramaparents@gmail.com. If you are willing to work a two hour shift at the table, let Laurie or Bonnie know that, too.
 - **Hoagie Sale:** We do this in the spring. It is our one food sale fundraiser. The Club has been doing it for years. We need a lead parent on it. You can email Laurie or Bonnie about it if you think you might like to do it. It's basically coordinating with the hoagie company and collecting order forms & money from the students. Also being present for pickup. Last year we awarded the top seller with a \$20 Starbucks card. The sale was a big success.

Costs that you might see as a result of your student being in the show.

- Costume-related costs: The show provides costumes. **You are responsible to buy the shoes.** For each show, Ms. Valliant will let us know what they need. For the fall show, girls need black pumps or black character shoes. For the fall, boys need a hard soled dress shoe. 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: **The students are each required to purchase theater make up** through Ms. Valliant 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. Ms. Valliant will let them know about that.
- 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 (\$8.00 in previous years). This varies from year to year based upon the theme and the donations we can get. Last year, we were able to cater the luncheon due to successful fundraising efforts by Ed Tonarelli (i.e. corporate sponsors in the show program and the gift basket raffle)
- There will also be a collection for Director's 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 Drama Club this year!

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