

the cap+s newsletter for November 2009

The Voice

Holiday Gifts.



by Chris Hanson

The holiday season is fast approaching and our thoughts are turning to family traditions, wrapping up in warm overcoats and scarves, and going over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house. Special gifts are always something we look forward to during this time of year and the bright and colorful wrappings they come in. In this holiday issue of The Voice we have some special gifts to tell you about. You won't have to wait in any long department store lines, you won't need a gift receipt, nor will traffic be a problem. Sit back for a moment, put your feet up, nestle a log on the fire, get that foaming luscious cup of hot chocolate ready, and let us tell you about some simple gifts

that will warm your heart and nourish your soul. Our sleigh is packed to its brim with ribbons and bows, the fields are covered with a fresh coat of glistening white snow, our runners have been waxed, and rumor has it that Santa has lent us Rudolph to lead the way!

Our first special gift came very early in November in the form of our 11th annual Fashion Show. Judging by the buzz created by the assembled adoring throng, and the constant flash of paparazzi bulbs, it was a smashing success. We have all the details of the Show to recap for you, complete with celebrity sightings, insider scoops, and pictures of our Almost Idol singers and fashion show models.

In our Directors Notes section, Choral Director Sara Michaels gives us some special insights into one of the most anticipated and cherished events of the year....The Holiday Concert. We hope you have your tickets!

Joann Langley, in Momma's Corner, points out to us the special gift of volunteerism and the important role our CAPS parents play in making a difference for the Hersey Choir Department. Joann's unique perspective on the importance of parent volunteers, stemming back to the days Sara and her brother were in Choir, reminds us that parent volunteers not only contribute to the welfare of our kids and ultimately our community, but also provide important role models for our students. Momma also has some important reminders for the Holiday Season that you will want to keep in mind for the busy weeks to come.

Natalie Griffin, our Manna Chair Person, gets in the spirit by proclaiming in **MANNA! MANNA!... "Tis the season to think about gift giving!"**

That's right, look no further than Manna for planning where you can find Holiday Gift Cards. Check out Natalie's article to get great gift ideas and learn how to go to the Hersey Choir website to print your own gift card order form. Manna gift cards are the gifts that keep on giving because a portion of the proceeds goes directly back into your student's individual choir account.

But we are not done, we have many more great gifts to tell you about! **Our CAPS membership drive** for the

Fashion Show Tubthumps Boffo Hersey Talent.

continued from page one

year is just getting going and Carolyn and Cameron Muir remind us about this year's membership goal and outline the different levels of membership available for parents. If you are not currently a CAPS member, we have made a membership form available for you in this issue of The Voice. Check it out, fill it out, and welcome to our Team! See all the details in Carolyn's and Cam's article.

In our **Where's the money?** Section, our Treasurers, Al Matos and Dale Kuntz, tell us about the guidelines for student Show Choir Payments and also about how PayPal will be made available in the future for credit card payments.

Ted Stanaszek, our CAP+S President, pines for the days when his calendar was less complicated and busy but then reminisces about all the good times we have had with our kids in the Choir program and concludes he would never have it any other way...we agree Ted, we're with you! By the way, who was that snoring in the back seat?

And last but not least, in the **Backstage** section of our sleigh, we have several special packages....look for an article by Cody Stanaszek and Kim Lasare, our choir co-student presidents that brings us back into Focus; we have listed out for you the Calendar of upcoming events; you will find the two student **Heard Backstage** quotes that won Prizes for the month; and, we list for you in **Who's Who**, the Choir Department staff, our student leaders, and our CAP+S leaders and executive board. We are rounding the bend now, Rudolph's red nose is shining brightly through the mist, and I can see in the distance the familiar wave of Grandma, waiting at the front door. We wish you all the very best of the Holiday Season!



by Chris Hanson

WHAMMO!!....This just in...SRO crowd goes wild at Hersey High School CAPS 11th ANNI Fashion Show! That's the scoop, a SELL OUT at the Cotillion NITEREY in Palatine saw an O.T.T. performance by a talented group of WARBLERS and HOOFERS. News on the INFOPIKE is bound to spread fast that this PREM of ALMOST IDOL had way many TOPLINERS provoking heavy MITTING from an adoring AUD that begged not to NIX the SOCKO SESH anytime soon. No HICS from STICKS here, this CLICK surely made CRIX in GOTHAM proud and is sure to TAP high honors at KUDOCASTS to come!

Translation, WOW what a show! Rumor has it that Simon Cowell was heard screaming in the hallways "That's Almost Idol!" We couldn't agree more. Thirty-Six different acts, consisting of sixty-three Hersey Choir Almost Idols, sang and strutted their stuff up and down the gala runway and a fabulous time was had by all in the CHITOWN crowd. The Choir groups Commercial Break, and, Heart & Soul,

also made guest appearances and wowed the crowd with their renditions of "Hear Comes the Sun" and "This Thing Called Love".

The imposing Almost Idol panel of Randy Jackson (AKA, Kim Lasare), Paula Abdul (AKA, Kristan Hanson), and, Simon Cowell (AKA Carina Muir), were deftly led by DOG Ryan Seacrest (AKA, Cody Stanaszek) and acted like true professionals in judging the COMPETISH as they CHIRPED about their FAV CHANTOOSIES, TERPERS, and gents, and their HOTSYS performances. Translation, the hot funk and cool junk was the bomb dude and Action Heights was straight-up!

Of course there was much more than singing and strutting on the runway at this gala cabaret-style event. In between Almost Idol acts, audience participants had a chance to take part in a silent auction with donations, expertly wrapped in stunning baskets by Jennifer Martin's Basket Committee, provided by local businesses and contributing individual donors and families. Raffle tickets were also sold throughout the show with master of



ceremonies host, Ann Penstone, calling out winners for an HDTV, a Garmin GPS and a Nikon camera.

And, if all that was not enough to pack into this four hour event, there was a Fashion Show!! Seventy-two members of the Choir department modeled fineries from local stores and boutiques and proud mothers and fathers of senior choir students provided escort assistance down the runway for their fashion DIVAS. Last but not least, participants feasted on a four-course luncheon spread that consisted of soup to nuts, and that's the smack, Jack.

Special acknowledgements go out to the Fashion Show Tri-Chairs, Ann Walker, Cheriann Hanson and Valerie Stanaszek, for their expertise and leadership, and to all the many committee chairs and committee volunteers, too numerous to mention here, but who all deserve a huge round of applause and thanks for all their hard work and long hours. A Huge Thank You also goes out to Choir Director, Sara Michael and her staff and to Joann Langley (AKA, Momma) for their artful guidance and the long hours they put into



making the show a huge success.

A huge Extra Shout-Out goes to the Fashion and Modeling Chairs, Roe Cappuccitti and Sue and Randy Petri, for their skillful guidance with our fashion models and to our talented music coordinator and sound editor, Nick Falco and Marc Bert, for the show's music to die for!

Early financial returns from the event indicate that the overall fundraising totals are quite impressive. Way to go to the CAPS family, you are the tops!

We were told that some people wait a lifetime for a moment like this. We believe, it WAS all meant to be, DOG!!

One final note: Basket Chair Jennifer Martin says we are already thinking about next years Fashion Show...If you bought a basket from the silent auction and want to return the basket (i.e., minus the contents!) we would be happy to take it. We need all the baskets we can get, or, any holiday container, that would be suitable for next year. Contact Jennifer, if you have a basket or container we could re-cycle: jenm55@comcast.net

Variety Slangage

Tubthumbs	To promote, draw attention
Socko	Very Good
Whammo	A sensation
SRO	Standing Room Only
Boffo	Outstanding
ANNI	Anniversary
Sell Out	Sold out performance
Nitery	A nightclub
OTT	Over the top
Warblers	Singers
Hoofers	Dancers
Infopike	Internet
Prem	Premier performance
Almost Idol	The Theme of this year's Fashion Show
Topliners	Stars
Mitting	Applause
Aud	Audience
Nix	Say no to
Sesh	Session
Hics from Sticks	Audiences from rural areas
Click	Hit
Crix	Critics
Gotham	New York City
Tap	Select
Kudocasts	awards shows
Chitown	Chicago
Competish	Competition
Chirped	Sang out
Fav	Favorite
Chantoosies	Female singers
Terpers	Dancers
Hotsy	Strong

Momma Knows Best.

by Joann Langley

The Holiday Season seems the appropriate time to take a minute to express our appreciation for all the wonderful volunteer parents that make our Choir Family so unique.

Having begun my association with the choir as a booster parent just like you (when Sara and my son were in choir), I can fully understand the sacrifice of time and energy you devote to the program.

Please know that all you do does not go unnoticed. And if we don't say it enough, know that you have our heartfelt thanks.

To those of you who were at the Fashion Show, you know what an enormous undertaking that is so when you see the chair persons, please take the time to let them know how thankful you are for their efforts to benefit of all the students.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you to get involved. It makes a difference for your children, most importantly, as well as the good of the entire program.

Your sons and daughters obviously value volunteerism. Their response to Shea's Day, Happy Hersey Halloween and the Food Drive have been awesome. The goal of the choir this year is to give back to the community. As further evidence of the commitment, all of the earning of the Dickens Carolers will be given to the Hersey Family Assistance Fund so that presents may be purchased for the Hersey families in need.

Following are some "momma" notes/reminders....things you should keep in mind for the upcoming months.



“You are the best!”

Joann Langley

- Remember to place your ticket order for the Holiday Concert as soon as possible.
- Students will be fitted for concert attire prior to Thanksgiving.
- Guys – always make sure you are clean-shaven and have a hair cut before concerts. Don't forget your black socks as well as make sure your dress shoes are polished.
- Girls – your hair must be off your face --- no bangs hanging in your eyes. No extra jewelry – string bracelets, pony tail holders, rings, necklaces, etc. No extreme makeup but you should wear make up including lipstick that has color.....no nude or pale pink as it washes you out on stage.
- Returning member...tell Momma now if you are missing any part of your costume – (girl's earrings, shoes, etc).
- Holiday Concert will be professionally video taped and available for sale at the concert.
- Pie pick up is Tuesday, November 24 at 3 PM. Please make arrangements to pick up your pies; we don't have freezer space for them and we have Ladies First rehearsal that night so there will be no place to put them.
- Remember to drink lots of water, use hand sanitizer/wash your hands, cover your mouth when you cough/sneeze. We want to keep the choir as healthy as possible.

I hope you all have a joyous Holiday Season with your families! **See you at the concerts.**

Join the Team!

by Carolyn and Cameron Muir

We have a CAPS membership goal this year of over 85%, which was last year's level. In fact, our goal is 100%! So we need your help in urging families who haven't joined to consider coming on board with our winning team. Memberships support the overall work of CAPS and the programs and events of the Hersey choir department.

Thanks to all the families who have joined the CAPS membership this year. Our membership is currently at 69%, so we still have a ways to go. By becoming a member in CAPS,

you are helping provide many of our students experience a greater depth of musical opportunities such as college trips, clinician fees for workshops, accompanist fees, instrumentalists for the holiday concerts, and much more. With each of these memberships also come privileges!

Your membership includes complimentary tickets for each of the levels for all concerts except the holiday concert.

We have included in this issue of The Voice, a membership form for new members to use. You can use this form to sign up. Please consider sending this form and your check to Joann Langley at Hersey made

payable to CAPS. If you have any questions, please contact us at cmuir@genbrook.k12.il.us. Thanks for the support and we are looking forward to welcoming our new CAPS team members!

The following are the amounts for the various levels of membership:

Individual	\$25
Family	\$50
<i>2 complimentary tickets for each remaining concert – That's a \$12 value!</i>	
Sponsor	\$100
<i>3 complimentary tickets for each remaining concert – That's an \$18 value!</i>	
Platinum	\$200
<i>4 complimentary tickets for each remaining concert – That's a \$24 value!</i>	



“Couldn't there be trees of Mistletoe?”

Heard Backstage!

Manna! Manna! Manna! Manna!

by Natalie Griffin

'Tis the season to think about gift giving'.

MANNA gift cards are great gifts for teachers, babysitters, carpool friends, high school students and more. Purchase MANNA gift cards to give, while receiving money back into your student's individual choir account. This student account can be used to pay for voice lessons, costume fees, and while accumulating over time, can go toward next year's trip to Florida.

Some popular gift cards available for purchase are restaurants such as Chipotle, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chili's, Noodles, CPK; stores such as American Eagle, Best Buy, Dick's, Macy's, Carson's; also gas cards for Speedway, BP, or Shell. And for all the extra

grocery shopping you do during the holidays, you can purchase gift cards for Dominick's, Jewel, Caputo's and Garden Fresh. There's also movie tickets, hotels and Travelocity.

Simply print your own form at home from the Hersey choir website, then submit your MANNA form with a check to the choir office by Thursday, December 3rd and you will receive your gift cards by Wednesday, December 9th. Happy Shopping!

For more information contact:

Natalie Griffin
griff1303@comcast.net
847-818-9697

Directors Notes

by **Sara Michael**

That chill in the air can only mean one thing...the holiday season is upon us. We are deep in preparation mode for the upcoming Holiday Show! If you're new to the program, this is THE concert. We receive phone calls from community members about purchasing tickets in September.

We have a few changes for this year. In order to accommodate our ticket orders as well as those of people in the community, we will be having three shows. We will also be having our required dress rehearsal with the professional instrumentalists on Saturday, December 12 from 2-6pm. Due to the logistics of staging this very involved production, we need to have ample time to practice. Due to the Variety Show being in the theater, this is our only chance to practice on the stage. I realize that this takes up a lot of time on a holiday season weekend. However, I hope you'll all feel that the end result is worth the time and effort.

This is a time of year when we reflect on our friends, families and all that we are fortunate to have in our lives. I truly appreciate how lucky I am to be part of such a wonderful choir family. Your support means the world to my family and me. I hope that this holiday season finds you enjoying the company of your friends and family complete with good times and beautiful music.

Sara Michael
Director
847-718-4942
sara.michael@d214.org

Focus, Focus.

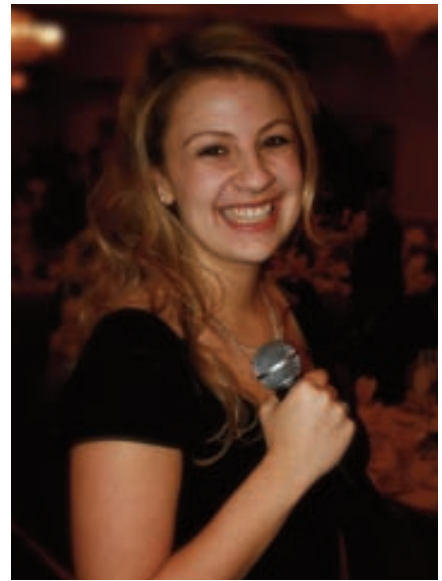
by **Kim Lasare and Cody Staszek**

Remaining focused in a room with 41 of your friends and classmates is an understandably difficult task. With that challenge in mind, we all decided that remaining focused should be one of our 11 goals for the year. Facing an eight-hour rehearsal last week was unsettling. However, I would say that it was our most focused rehearsal thus far. OnStage got most of their closer done and polished the Christmas number with vocal rehearsals sprinkled here and there, all while being very focused. I am proud of our team. We are coming together, all pitching in and staying on task. As long as we stay focused we can have a very successful competition season.

Cruising into the holidays, most of us are forgetting about all we have done this fall. With the fallapalooza concert, homecoming performances, Augustana, Carthage and St. Mary's trips, Happy Hersey Halloween, and Fashion show under our belts, the rest of the year should be just as exciting but much easier to handle.

We always try to be looking forward to the next event, because there is always so much to plan and prepare for. The Holiday Concert is our next big thing. We encourage every student to help on set up days and parents who would like to be involved are more than welcome to join in.

Kim Lasare **Cody Staszek**
president president
312-607-5853 847-636-6166
cstaszek@gmail.com



Where's the money?

The Treasury Report
by **Al Matos and Dale Kuntz**

We want to thank the show choir parents for keeping up with their payments. The payment guidelines were published back in July via an email entitled "Show Choir Parents" If anyone has difficulty in locating that document, please contact us and we can send it on to you.

Your payments have allowed us to pay our vendors on time this year which makes everyone very happy. As a friendly reminder, please make sure there is money in your bank account when you submit your payments. so we can avoid any NSF fees.

CAP+S has opened an account with PayPal in order to accept credit cards. We did accept credit cards during the Fashion Show and are planning to allow their use during our 2010 Chicagoland Showcase event. The great news is we are anticipating you will be able to use your credit cards for show choir payments on-line next year, and we will be sending out more information about that process, as we continue to develop the procedures.

The student account balances are e-mailed on a monthly basis and posted on the website:
www.herseychoir.com

For more information contact:
Dale Kuntz
kuntz@555skokie.com
(general questions)

Al Matos
matosalbert@gmail.com
(student account questions).



Here and Now.

by **Ted Stanaszek**

As I write this, like many of you I am tired. It seems like my schedule has been booked since, well as long as I can remember. Valerie and I keep saying to each other that as soon as the next event is over things are going to slow down but it never seems to happen. Now of course this is our own fault. There's no rule that says we have to be involved in everything, that we have to attend every event. So here is the truth, even though I complain about the pace of our lives, I wouldn't have it any other way.

We have two seniors this year, Cody at Hersey and Rachel at DePaul. It seems like yesterday that they were both babies and now they are choosing colleges, putting together resumes and thinking about careers. So here is my commitment to them and to all of you: For the rest of the year I'm going to enjoy the moment. I am going to be fully present in the here and now because the truth is we are coming to the end of an era in our family. I am going to give the Hersey Choir everything I've got for the next six months because this program, the people we've met and the friends we've made have been a blessing to our family for the last eight years.

A few weeks ago my Mom was at our house and because she lives out of state has only been able to attend a couple of choir events, so she asked to watch a few of the many DVDs we have from the showchoir competitions over the years. I remembered once again how much those days in hot gyms, eating bad everything and driving home late at night with Cheriann, Debbie and Valerie snoring in the back mean to me.

So bring on the Holiday Concert, I can't wait to hang the wreaths. Bring on the competition season, I know a great diner in Madison. I am looking forward to the spring musical, I will start pressuring Cody to do it one more time really soon. Just don't talk about the choir banquet. After Joe Lasare walked Kim, beautiful and beaming, down the runway at the Fashion Show he said "you know it's almost over." I felt a tightness in my chest and tears in my eyes and he said "I know." I know too.

Ted Stanaszek
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Who's Who.

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Upcoming Events.

November 21
IMEA District VII Festival
All Day
McHenry High School

December 3
Middle School Tour
All Day

December 8-9
Showchoir Solo Workshop
All Day
John Hersey High School

December 12
Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsal
John Hersey High School

December 13-14
Holiday Concerts
John Hersey High School Theatre

December 15
**Charles Dickens Carolers with
The John Hersey High School
Orchestra Concert**
John Hersey High School

January 2
Mandatory Showchoir Workshop
All Day
John Hersey High School

January 12
cap+s meeting
7:00 pm
Teachers Lounge

January 15
**Monona Grove Showchoir
Competition**
All Day
Monona Grove High School

February 9
cap+s meeting
7:00 pm
Teachers Lounge

February 13
**Fort Atkinson Showchoir
Competition**
All Day
Fort Atkinson High School

**“I’m really tired, I think
I’m gonna go workout.”**

Heard Backstage!

Holiday Choral Concert

New this year, there will be three performances of The Holiday Choral Concert, Sunday, December 13 at 1 PM and 4 PM and Monday, December 14 at 7:30 PM. Students will be expected to perform on all three concerts. We will provide food for the students between the two Sunday concerts. All choirs, showchoirs, Dickens Carolers, Commercial Break and Heart & Soul will be featured. Seating in the Theatre will be reserved. For those of you who are new to the program, please be aware that this is a very popular concert not only with choir family members but with alums and members of the community as well, so tickets sell out very quickly. On the reverse side, you will find a ticket order as well as a plot of theatre seats. Please circle your seat preference. Ticket orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Every effort will be made to accommodate your seat preference or to seat you as close as possible to your preference. Free tickets with membership are not included in this concert. Platinum membership entitles you to preferential seating however, you must still pay for your tickets. Please note, when making your plans, the doors will open no earlier than fifteen minutes prior to show time. The doors will open at the discretion of the director based on warm-up rehearsals with the choir. We ask you patience for a few extra minutes if necessary to insure a wonderful show. Since tickets are reserved, there is no reason to stand in line for an extended length of time. Checks should be made payable to CAPS and returned together with the order form to the Choral Office no later than Monday, December 7.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:
Ms. Langley at 847- 718-4942 or email joann.langley@d214.org.**



Holiday Choral Concert Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Number of Tickets

_____ Sunday, December 13 - 1 PM @ \$5.00 each

_____ Sunday, December 13 - 4 PM @ \$5.00 each

_____ Sunday, December 13 - 7:30 PM @ \$5.00 each

_____ Any Performance (no preference) @ \$5.00 each

Tickets for this concert are **not included** in the complimentary ticket benefit of cap+s membership. Seats will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Checks should be made payable to cap+s and returned in an envelope with your students name and "holidayConcert" on the front



Hersey Showchoir family t-shirts order form

all proceeds benefit the cap+s scholarship fund!



BACK



FRONT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ StateZip _____

Sizes	Quantity	
Small	_____ x \$20 each =	_____
Medium	_____ x \$20 each =	_____
Large	_____ x \$20 each =	_____
Extra Large	_____ x \$20 each =	_____
XXL	_____ x \$20 each =	_____
Total		_____

Please make checks payable to cap+s

Send Payments to:

John Hersey High School
C/O Joan Langley
1900 East Thomas Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

