

the cap+s newsletter for september 2009

The Voice

New Beginnings

New: produced for the first time; fresh; starting as a repetition of a cycle.

Beginnings: to start; to come into being; to commence

by Chris Hanson, Editor in Chief

It's that time of the year again when we inhale and savor summer's last warm days, but also look forward to the promise of a new school year and the beginning events and activities of the John Hersey Choir Program.

So while many of you are looking forward to autumn colors, huddling around an open fire in the backyard, sipping a hot steaming cup of cider, or pulling on your favorite sweater for a night football game, we have some exciting news to tell you about what is being planned to kick off our student's new calendar for the fall.

For those parents who have a student who will be new to the Choir Program this year, we welcome you and invite you to be a part of our **cap+s** family (Choral Association of Parents & Students).

Our **cap+s** mission, as a booster group, is to act as a vibrant and creative resource for the students and parents of the Hersey Choral Family. The Voice is one way in which we act as a resource and communicate about Choir Program events and activities throughout the year. We will publish The Voice this year every other month through May 2010. We also support the Choir

Program website at www.hersey-choir.com and encourage you to visit it often. The website is updated frequently with current pictures of students performing in events, important news and information.

In this issue of The Voice, our President, Ted Stanaszek, provides details on when and where **cap+s** meets each month, how to become an active **cap+s** parent member, and some of the items on the Fall agenda. This is a great way for new parents to get involved and we encourage you to attend our first meeting in September.

We have lots of great additional information in this issue. Sara Michael, the *Director of the Hersey Choir Program*, provides her first, in a running series of **Director's Notes**, for the year. Throughout the year go to Sara's column to find out interesting insider news and tips about our student's progress and upcoming Choir shows. Joann Langley, we all know her affectionately as "Momma", in our **Momma Knows Best** section, provides insight on her critical role as Fine Arts Assistant at Hersey and how she has come "full circle".

New this year to **cap+s** is what we are calling **The New Member Mentoring Program** (The NMMP!).

Kathy and Kevin Kolba are heading up this effort, and in this issue, share some information about the program's purpose and how new parents can participate. In **Manna Manna Manna!** Natalie Griffin, our Manna chair person, explains how parents can add to their student Choir accounts by purchasing items from Manna vendors in the local community. Speaking of your student's accounts, our **cap+s** treasurers, Al Matos and Dale Kuntz have a few reminders for you in **Where's the Money?**, so be sure to check out that section of the newsletter to learn more about student account balances.

Big News.

American Idol is coming to Arlington Heights! Almost Idol, that is. Mark November 8th down on your school calendars!! That's the much anticipated date for the Fall Fashion Show, one of our two big fund raising events of the year for the Choir Program. Planning for this fun filled day of music, food and fashion is well under way and you will want to read up on this year's dynamic program to find out what Simon and the Idol gang will be doing and how you can grab a front row seat. Our three Fashion Show tri-chairs, Ann Walker, Valerie

Directors Notes.

by Sara Michael

It seems just like yesterday that we were putting the final touches on the graduation song "Thankful" and looking forward to summer vacation. We have already started with the first of many positive rehearsals and meetings to plan for what I know will be an incredible 2009-2010 school year. Ladies First and Onstage met at Nippersink during the first week in August to prepare for the upcoming school year. The a cappella groups, Dickens Carolers, Commerical Break and Heart & Soul all met to get a head start on their year. Our first rehearsals at Hersey of Treble Choir, Concert Choir, Women's Chorale and Chamber Singers have all shown that this group of students is excited to work hard and do their best. The presidents and vice presidents have gotten together to discuss ideas to make this a great year for everyone involved in choir. We're already in preparation for the big events of the first few months: our October concert (a combination of classical and pop music), IMEA auditions, Homecoming, and Happy Hersey Halloween.

I'd like to welcome our freshmen and new students to what we fondly call the "Hersey Choir Family". You'll soon find out that this group of students, parents and teachers are always there to support one another.

There are many opportunities for both students and parents to be involved in the program. For our students, the first thing to put on your radar is Homecoming Hallway decorations. This year's theme is "Passport to the World". We en-

courage every choir student to help us prepare for Homecoming. We're looking for creative people and your ideas to decorate our hallway. The officers have some great suggestions as to how everyone can get involved.

In the next months, you'll also hear about Happy Hersey Halloween (on Friday, October 30) and the Fashion Show (on Sunday, November 8). I encourage all of you to get involved with any of these activities, we always have so much fun!!!

Please feel free to talk to me if you have any questions about how you can become involved. You can contact me at: (847) 718-4942 or sara.michael@d214.org

I'm looking forward to what I know will be an amazing year!!!

New Beginnings

continued

Stanaszek and Cheriann Hanson, have provided a helpful Q&A section on the Fashion Show to answer all your questions. You will find a Q&A for the Fashion Show in general and also one for the silent auction component of the event. We plan on seeing you at the show!

Finally, don't forget the **Backstage** section of our newsletter, where in this issue, you will find articles by our Student Presidents, Kim Lasare and Cody Stanaszek. This year in The Voice we will be devoting more ink to what our students have to say and I am sure there will be several surprises to look forward to, so stay tuned. In each issue, Backstage will be where we will list upcoming events and other important reminders. Backstage just might be the first section you will want to turn to!

Mark your calendars, the
Fall Concert is Oct. 1

Join us in the BlackBox
before the show for the first
annual cap+s meet and
greet! We'll make sure you
get all the information you
need for a great choir season.

Momma Knows Best.

by Joann Langley

We're in the swing of things already...hard to believe summer is over but I know we're going to have oh, so much fun in choir this year!

Thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me and to clarify my role both at JHHS as well as the choir program specifically.

My name is Joann Langley but your children know me as "Momma". This is the name I was given back at Rolling Meadows High School when my children were in choir and I was the choral booster president who eventually became the assistant to the choir director, Tim Heck, on a volunteer basis. When Mr. Heck moved to JHHS, I came with him on a volunteer basis and have stayed on after he retired. In all, I have been a "choral parent" volunteer for twenty years...long after my students graduated out of the program.

As life often comes full circle, so it has for me. I started volunteering when my daughter was a freshman in choir, and now I work for her! That's right, Ms. Michael is my daughter. My paid position at Hersey (six hours a day) is as the Fine Arts Assistant. As such, I work for Mr. Marquette, the Fine & Performing Arts Coordinator, as well as all the fine and performing arts teachers including band, orchestra, choir, art, debate, speech, Children's Theater, theater program, etc. That is my ten month paid position...I'm not paid over the summer.

The additional work that I do for the

choir, which includes many, many evenings, weekends, holidays and summers is not paid. I do it because I love your children and believe in the choir program and the long range benefits it will have for your kids.

I'm sharing this so that you will understand my actual position with the choir. Many people mistakenly think I am a paid assistant...I volunteer just like you.

Because I have been a "choir parent" I understand things from the parent's perspective, the director's perspective and most importantly, the student's perspective. Both my daughter and son went through the ups and downs of being involved in performing arts and are the better for it. It's a wonderful opportunity on so many levels and I'm here to help the director, the parents and the students make it the best experience it can be. That's my goal and that is what I strive to achieve each year I'm involved.

If you have any questions or there is any way I can help, please always feel free to call or email me at 847-718-4942 or joann.langley@d214.org I try to respond as quickly as I can but understand I'm pulled in 1,000 directions as the year progresses so it might not be the same day, but I will get back to you.

Enjoy every minute of being involved in this positive, joyful experience for your son or daughter! The choir family is a special one and there's no better job than being the choir "momma".

New Member Mentoring Program. (the NMMP?)

by Kathy and Kevin Kolba

In order to help those families that are new to the choir program this year, we have added a New Member Mentoring Program. Our goal is to give new members a single resource for helping you find the right person or people to answer your questions. We can also connect you with the right committee members in order to get involved with the many volunteer opportunities with the choir program.

Think of the New Member Mentoring Program as a way to get you started in fully enjoying and participating in choir activities and events. We will be hear to show you the ropes, make introductions, invite you to attend meetings, and applaud with you when our kids light up the stage and our hearts. The New Member Mentoring Program is your ticket to getting answers for a thousand questions or two!

It's nice when you see a familiar face when you walk into an unfamiliar room for the first time.

That's just what we will be for our new parents, a friendly smile and a helping hand. So to our new parents out there, we hope you will give our mentoring program a try!

We will be available at the New Members Q&A table before the October 1st Choir Concert. If you have questions before the concert date, please feel free to email us at kkkolba@wowway.com

We look forward to meeting you!

Manna!Manna! Manna!Manna!

by Natalie Griffin

What is Manna? What can Manna do for me? The answers are simple. The blank Manna form is posted on the home page of the Hersey choir website in the bottom of the left column. Each month you can print off the Manna order form at home. It lists the vendors in which you may purchase gift cards/certificates. The percentages of how much we earn is listed next to each vendor name. When you purchase from Manna, your child receives 70% of the profit in his/her individual student account and **cap+s** receives the remaining 30%.

Simply fill out the form and send it in to the choir department along with your check made out to CAPS by the due date for each month. Your son or daughter may turn it in during their choir class. Orders will be ready for pick up each month at the CAPS meetings on Tuesday nights, or can be sent home with your child on the following Wednesday.

MANNA gift cards make great gifts, but there's another way to take advantage of this program and earn money for student accounts. Everyone grocery shops, purchases gas, eats at restaurants. Simply purchase gift cards for your family for the month from vendors such as Jewel or Dominick's, Speedway Gas, Chili's or Chipotle. Look over the list and I am certain you will find many vendors you shop with on a regular basis. It's such a simple way to earn money for individual students in the choir program!

MANNA order due dates for the first semester are Thursday, September 3, 2009, Thursday, October 8, 2009, Thursday, November 5, 2009, Thursday, December 3, 2009, Thursday, January 7, 2010

For more information contact:
Natalie Griffin
griff1303@comcast.net
847-818-9697

Heard Backstage!

“What are some of your fears for this coming year?”

“I don't know, I am kinda worried about the singing and the dancing!”

Where's the money?

The Treasury Report
by Al Matos and Dale Kuntz

A quick word from the Treasures... We want to thank Howie Grossman for the outstanding service this past year. And, we welcome Dale Kuntz, who will be transitioning, with Howie's passing of the torch to us.

Our first note, show choir parents, please adhere to the new mandatory payment planned outlined in the July 5th emailing from Sara Michael and Joann Langlely, entitled “Show Choir Payments”. This will allow us to stay current with our payments to vendors. Our vendors expect to be paid timely so we need to have the funds available in advance. Also, please make sure there is money in your bank account when you send in your check. You will be charged for NSF fees we incur, and we'd prefer not to have to hassle with re-depositing your check. In turn, we will do our best to deposit checks and get statements of accounts to you in a timely basis.

Also this year, we are investigating an easier and more convenient way for parents to make your payments on-line. The student account balances will be posted on the www.herseychoir.com

website, on a monthly basis. You will need your student's ID number to view their balances.

We look forward to another successful year and working with you.

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

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

Almost idol

The 2009 Fashion Show

American: of or in America; characteristic of The United States; including Arlington Heights! **Idol:** from the Greek word eidolon; an image, phantom; any object of ardent or excessive devotion **Almost:** as in we tried to use the real words but they said they would sue us.

Imagine this, a star studded panel of famous judges, a runway to heaven, knock your socks off songs, music that will bring any crowd to its knees, and more glamour and BLING than Liberace on a Saturday night... that's right you got it, it's Almost Idol, the JHHS Choral Department, 11th annual CAP+S Fashion Show.

Mark Sunday November 8th on your calendars, that's when students from the JHHS Choral Department will present their version of American Idol (Almost) to you, their adoring fans! We promise you it will look like American Idol, feel like American Idol, sound like American Idol, well, Almost Idol. The countdown on our runway will start at 11:00 a.m, at the Cotillion Ballroom in Palatine, right off of route 53 and Northwest Highway

In conjunction with the Fashion Show and luncheon, there will be a silent auction of interesting wares, services, and just plain totally cool stuff! We will also be raffling items like a 19" HDTV; A Garmin GPS, a Nikon digital camera and more secret stuff that you will just have to come and see!

John Hersey High school serves students from Arlington Heights, Prospect Heights, Mount Prospect and Des Plaines. All funds raised go directly to assisting the Choral Department to benefit our students. In past years, funds raised have contributed to purchasing new instruments, stage equipment, sound systems and new choir apparel needed for the outstanding JHHS Choir program. Funds raised have also included student scholarships for fine arts summer camps.

Reservations for the Fashion Show are required and a packet of information will be mailed to Choir parent's mid-September. The reservation deadline is October

28, 2009. See you at the Show!!

For questions regarding reservations, please contact: Jenny McEntyre, Reservation Co-Chair, 809 East Oakton Street, Arlington Heights, IL, 60004; Phone: 224 567 1280.

If you have a donation item or service for the silent auction, that would be much appreciated, please call us... See the Q&A on the silent auction that follows in this newsletter.

If you need more information or have questions about the Fashion Show in general, please contact:

Cheriann Hanson

cbhanson56@comcast.net

Ann Walker

atwalker4@comcast.net

Valerie Stanaszek

vstanaszek@mac.com

Answers to the most commonly asked Fashion Show Questions:

When will I get more information?

By mid-September you will have received an envelope with important fashion show information.

What about raffle tickets?

Sell, Sell, Sell! Your student receives \$1.00 in their student account for each ticket sold.

How do I make a reservation for myself and guests?

Complete (front & back) of the reservation card and return it by Wednesday, October 28th.

How do I make a reservation for my student?

All choral students must complete a student reservation form and pay \$25.00. Students will be seated together at designated tables and served a pasta meal.

Can we invite other high school students?

Sure, but if they are not choral students they need to be included on the parent guest form, pay the \$38 dinner price, and be seated at family tables.

How does my student get involved?

1. They can model. The model form is included in the packet and is due by Friday, October 1st (first come, first served).
2. They can perform – talk to Mrs. Michael or your voice teacher
3. They can volunteer to help. Have your student complete the model/helper form.

Who collects the Raffle Ticket Money?

The money can be dropped off at the Choral office. Secure the money in an envelope marked Raffle Ticket Money and the student's name (so they get credit). Very important -- only include money for raffle tickets in the envelope.

How can I get involved?

- Donate a basket, item or service for the Silent Auction. Contact Jennifer Martin (jenm55@comcast.net), or Lisa Machinis (lisamachnis@comcast.net)
- Sell raffle tickets before and/or at the show.
- Help with outside donations for Silent Auction.
- Contact Chris Hanson (crhanson@cballtd.biz) or Beth Lasare (balasare1@aim.com) regarding donations.
- Sign up for various volunteer positions. Email one of the tri-chairs below if you would like more information about volunteering.

**Please note, all proceeds from this event benefit the Hersey Choral Program*

Upcoming Fashion Show Deadlines

Modeling forms due to Joann Langley on Friday, October 1st.

Start dropping off your gift certificate and silent auction donations to Jennifer Martin between now and October 15th. Jennifer's address is:

Jennifer Martin

204 W. Kenilworth, Prospect Heights, IL
847-255-4268, email: jenm55@comcast.net .

Reservation form is due Friday, October 28th to the choir office or Jenny McEntyre (address is located on the reservation form).

Raffle tickets (sold & unsold) and collected money is due Thursday, November 5th.

The Silent Auction: Q&A

How does the auction raise funds for the John Hersey choir program?

Everything up for an auction that day will have been donated by parents, students and interested parties. One hundred percent of the money paid for auction items will benefit our students.

How does the auction work on that day?

Between 60 and 70 gift baskets of varying value will be on display during the meal and fashion show. Guests can examine the baskets, write down a bid on the bid sheet next to the basket(s) of their choice, and hope to be the last bidder when the auction is over. Whoever's name is last on the list is the winner of that basket.

Is every donated item part of this silent auction?

No, the high value-items will be auctioned off in a live auction during the dinner.

Who donates the items in the baskets that are auctioned?

Local businesses donate, as well as parents and students.

Can I donate something to be part of the auction?

Yes! We would be delighted if you did! (See below)

If I donate a basket of items, or a basket item, how much should I spend?

Baskets items range from \$20 to several hundred dollars.

How do we pay for the basket(s) we have won at the auction?

After it has been announced that no more bids can be written on the bid sheets, the last person on the list to bid is the winner. At the end of the afternoon's event, the winner will carry his/her basket to the cashier and pay the amount of the last bid. Congratulations will be in order!

Want to donate a basket?

There are several ways to do this. You and your student might want to choose a basket theme such as a "Spa Basket" or a "Game Night Basket" or a "Cubs Basket". Then have fun going shopping, filling a basket with the items you choose. All items should be purchased new. The basket committee has a supply of actual baskets, so your donated items can be brought to them in a bag or box, although you may supply your own basket, if you wish. Most baskets will be dressed up with cellophane wrapping and a wide ribbon-bow, should you wish to do this on your own. Otherwise, just bring your basket of items or just your items to the address below, and we will "dress up" your basket for you.

Jennifer Martin

204 West Kenilworth Ave.
Prospect Heights, IL
847-255-4268

Very Important!

Without donations, we would not be able to have an auction! Baskets can be donated from right now through October 22, which is the cut-off date to donate items for the November 8th event.

Still have questions?

Call or email anyone on the basket committee:

Jennifer Martin

847-255-4268
jenm55@comcast.net

Lisa Machinis

847-818-9208
lisamachinis@comcast.net

Terry Petit

847-253-0458
terrypetit@gmail.com

Lisa Kuntz

847-506-1223
lisa.kuntz@comcast.net

100%.

by Ted Stanaszek

Welcome to the 2009/2010 choir season! As everyone who has been around this program for more than 5 minutes knows and those of you that are new are about to find out the level of excitement and commitment from the kids and families are second to none. I've been the cap+s president for the last three years and have been involved with the program for eight years and can honestly say I look forward to each and every event. That's why I want to invite every family to become a member of cap+s, The John Hersey High School Choral Association of Parents and Students.

cap+s is the booster organization for the choir program and each year we raise funds, usually in excess of \$40,000, that goes towards your students travel expenses, costumes, equipment including a piano and microphones, as well as paying for clinicians and coaches. The contributions and hard work of cap+s members is evident in the quality of the program.

As talented, dedicated and tireless as Sara Michael, Joann Langley, Tony Gibson, Forrest Cataldo and the rest of the team are, the school district just doesn't provide the funding necessary to deliver the quality we have grown accustomed to.

There are many ways to get involved including volunteering for the Fashion Show or Chicagoland Showcase, participating in the pie and candy sales, selling ads for the programs or pitching in on a sewing team.

One of the best and easiest ways to get involved is to become a member of cap+s. Last year more than 85% of the choir families joined cap+s and this year I have set my personal goal at 100%! There are several levels of membership that you can take advantage of and each level has its own benefits.

Catagory	Contribution	Benefit
Individual Membership	\$25	
Family Membership	\$50	2 tickets per concert*
Sponsor Membership	\$100	3 tickets per concert*
Platinum Membership	\$200	4 tickets per concert in the preferred center section-front to middle rows. You'll have to pay for the Holiday Concert but you are guaranteed 4 premium seats

* **not** including the Holiday Concert

You can find the cap+s membership form on the forms page at www.herseychoir.com If you have any questions I can be reached at 312-607-5853 or ted@sgdp.com

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Concert on October 1.

BackStage

Get involved, its fun!

by Kim Lasare and Cody Stanaszek

During our first day at Nippersink for the annual showchoir retreat, the seniors developed a set of goals for the year that the whole team ratified. We want to use this space each month to remind everyone of the goals and pillars and to tell stories about how these ideas are becoming an important part of who we are everyday.

One of those goals was encouraging **"involvement in the community."** As co-presidents of the choir, we would like to integrate these goals into the choir as a whole and not just the showchoirs. During our time together we stressed the importance of bringing the freshman and new members into the choir family. One of the first things we want to do is have the freshman/new members play a key role in the design and execution of our homecoming hallway!

When we were freshman, we felt intimidated because we hadn't been in the group before and construction of a competitive hallway that the whole school would see was a really big deal. We want the feeling of "being left-out" to be banished from the choir room, we want it to become obsolete.

We think that by giving specific roles to the freshman choirs, more underclassmen will feel like they played a vital role in the project and are an important part of the group.

We encourage all choir members especially freshman to get involved in the production and planning of Happy Hersey Halloween. Also, The Fashion Show is coming up soon and we want as many people as possible to take part in that great event too. You can sing or model, whichever you are more comfortable with. Don't be afraid, it's a lot of fun and a great experience. We both performed as freshman and even though we were scared, it is a day we will never forget.

We look forward to seeing your individual talent shine through and definitely think that we are going to have a great year.

Welcome back! Now let's get to work. It's sure to be an exciting year. Don't miss a minute of it!

Our Goals

- > Generational Transfer
- > Appreciate One-Another
- > Remain Focused
- > Find the Good in Other People
- > Discover who we are as a group
- > Keep Improving
- > Build Relationships
- > **Involvement in the Community**
- > Get Together
- > Keep it Fun
- > Make Finals

Our Pillars

- > Commitment
- > Omniscience
- > Controlled Confidence
- > Self Assurance
- > Respect
- > Unity

Upcoming Events.

September 8
cap+s Meeting
 7:00 PM - Faculty Lounge

October 1
Fall Concert

October 2
Fashion Show Auditions

October 6
IMEA District VII Choral Auditions
 Libertyville HS

October 13
cap+s General Meeting
 7:00 PM - Black Box (open forum)

October 15
IMEA District VII Jazz Auditions
 New Trier

October 18 & 19
Augustana Choir Festival
 Chamber Singers

October 30
Happy Hersey Halloween

November 5
Fashion Show Rehearsal
 (3-6PM - scheduled times)

November 8
2009 Fashion Show Gala
 Cotillion Ballroom

November 10
cap+s Meeting
 7:00 PM - Faculty Lounge

November 12
Lakeshore Choir Festival
Carthage College
 Chamber Choir

November 14
IMEA District VII Jazz Festival
 Glenbrook North

Who's Who?

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