

May 2009

VOICES

A newsletter from DGS Choral Boosters



A Note from the President

What a year it has been! It is hard for me to believe that it was just about a year ago that I stepped in as Choral Booster President. As the April showers have finally given way to the May flowers (purchased through our collaborative fundraiser with the DGS Band Boosters) we have just a little over 3 weeks remaining in the school year. Those of you who have been to our most recent booster meeting can tell you I have been struck with "senioritis." However, as I keep trying to convince my son there is still a lot of work to be accomplished over the next few weeks.

May is one of the busiest months in the Choir Department. There are many opportunities for us to hear our students perform and to lend a hand as volunteers. Aside from the Musical, the annual Choir Show is probably the next largest production of the year. This show involves almost all the choirs and ensembles. Usually the theme of the Choir Show rotates on a four to five year basis but this year the Choir Show will be taking us International. The music and script are all being put together fresh this year. The students are having opportunities to learn about different cultures and customs as well as the music native to these lands. The show will also feature an added twist in that the students are working to create a contribution to the *Feed the Starving Children* organization in conjunction with the show. The show will be performed on Thursday and Friday, **May 14th and 15th** as well portions of the show will be performed on Friday morning, **May 15th** for the Jr. High feeder schools.

On Sunday **May 17th** the Choral Boosters will host our First Annual DGS Choir Banquet. This will be a chance for students and parents alike to celebrate the successes of the year. The committee has been working very hard at developing this event to be something special and we hope that all of you plan to attend. See further details inside.

Wrapping up the year, the A Capella Choir will perform with the Wind Ensemble on **May 21st** and then again at graduation on **May 29th**, Madrigals will have their final concert on **May 27th** and the Select Ensembles will host the final event of the year on **May 31st**. In addition the private voice teachers will also be conducting individual recitals for their students. Please check with your students for the dates and times of all of these events.

As I wrap up my time as Choral Booster President and as a DGS parent I hope that I have helped in a small way, through this organization, to show you what great opportunities our students have in music at DGS and how each of us can play a role. The Choral Boosters ALWAYS need volunteers for a variety of tasks and activities. If you're already an active booster volunteer, I can't thank you enough. We would never be able to offer the amount of support we give to the music department without your involvement. For those of you who are ready to start getting involved now is the time. Please come to any of our monthly booster meetings on the second Monday of each month. Our final meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, **May 11th** at 7:00 PM in the Ensemble room.

Sometimes I am asked by friends outside the choir program why I and many other parents volunteer so much of our time supporting the DGS Music Program. To me, the answer is obvious. This program is a stellar example of why the music matters. It brings parents and families together. It teaches students the importance of pursuing excellence. It helps us express our sense of community. When I talk to my son Mike about his experience in the DGS choirs the look in his eyes suggests that these memories are an important part of his life. He believes that pursuing excellence in music is part of his road to reaching his dreams. The memories made by our kids these past few years will last them a lifetime and give them the confidence to make a significant contribution to our world, regardless of their endeavor. Thank you to all the DGS music staff, the private vocal staff, the Choral Boosters, the parents and most of all the students for showing us that the music really does matter!

Best wishes to Sue Utesch and the 2009-2010 Choral Boosters Board. The road is now yours to journey.

Margaret Buhtanic
President, DGS Choral Booster

♪ 2009 Event Dates ♪

May 11	Booster Meeting	May 21	Spring Ensemble Concert
May 12	Choir Show Rehearsal	May 27	Madrigal Concert
May 14 & 15	Choir Show	May 29	Graduation
May 17	Banquet	May 31	Select Ensembles Concert

♪ Students & Parents ♪ ♪ You've Got Mail ♪

Feeling left out? Wondering how to keep up-to-date? Have you signed up for our mailing list, joined our facebook group or visited our website (www.dgschoir.org) yet? All of these are great ways to keep up with what is going on with the DGS Choirs.



We maintain several mailing lists to share information about each of the DGS Choirs, some with specific information targeted to certain groups (i.e., Concert Choir, Madrigals, Overtones, etc.) and others with general information that applies to everyone. The Choral Boosters and Directors rely on email to circulate a lot of important information. Please help us keep our database up to date by providing us with your e-mail address. It is simple to do just send your name, your students name, the choir(s) they are in and the e-mail address where you would like information to go to Carol Fendrick at cfenddsommenb@sbcglobal.net.

To join the facebook group go to www.facebook.com, go to groups and look for DGS Choral Boosters. This is an open invitation group.

♪ New York City Trip ♪

We are thrilled at the response to the New York trip offering for 2010. Eighty students have committed to attend the trip and the directors are busy refining our performance opportunities and the final itinerary.

An initial chaperone meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18 from 7:00-7:45 PM. Please plan to attend if you are interested in being a parent chaperone on the trip. Contact Sue Utesch at chilipepermom@gmail.com if you are unable to attend.

A parent fundraising committee for the trip will be forming soon. Please contact Debbie Stelling at debbiestelling@comcast.net if you are interested in being involved with this short term parent committee to help students raise funds for their trip.

There will be a NYC trip meeting for all student participants and their parents in the fall at the start of the school year. This meeting will include discussion of the itinerary, costs and inclusions, payment deadlines, fundraising, school rules, required health forms, rehearsal schedule, and a question and answer time. A specific date for the meeting will be announced by the end of this school year.



♪ Choir Auditions ♪

An update from the choral staff on curriculum changes . . .

We thought it would be helpful to discuss why we are moving to auditioned choirs for our choral program at DGS. It is our hope that the changes we are making will allow for even better opportunities for our students. The choirs this year have progressed well and we are so pleased with the learning that is occurring on a daily basis with our students. This can be seen as we learn to sight sing, discuss musical elements in class, and see the growth daily in our students. The paragraphs that follow will talk a little about our philosophy and beliefs about our students and the choral program at DGS.

It is our primary belief that all students have the ability to sing and can further develop their musicianship skills. We believe in providing all students an opportunity to participate in a choir at DGS, if they so desire. There is a place for everyone to sing! South High has a long tradition of having a fine choral program with a large enrollment that reflects the diversity and talents of our school and community.

Over the years, we have noticed that some of our most talented young singers need more challenge in their curricular choirs. Although we have select co-curricular ensembles that meet briefly each day, many of these students feel under-challenged in their curricular choirs. As a result of this issue, we are addressing the curriculum for these students and their learning.

This spring, for the first time in DGS history, all current freshmen through junior choir students have been placed in a choir for the 09-10 school year based on their musical skill. In the past, students were promoted to choir by grade level, regardless of their choral experience and ability.

Most high schools in the United States offer advanced level choirs to students based on their readiness in the areas of sight-reading and musicianship skills. This allows for a richer experience for students who are developmentally ready. Students advance through the program based on skill, not by their grade level. There are benefits to both types of choral programs and this change is the result of many discussions about our department's philosophy of music education.

Currently, our band and orchestra programs offer ensemble participation based on skill level. The orchestra has two levels of classes and band has four. The choral staff has decided to allow younger talented students the opportunity to advance through the program as they are able to meet specific standards. We hope that this change will encourage students to grow musically in sight reading, music theory, and singing expressively. In turn, our already excellent program will hopefully develop a choral experience that goes even deeper as students are ready to experience more. When looking across the entire choral curriculum, the changes will allow all students to be placed appropriately and be challenged at their skill level.

The changes will allow junior and senior boys and girls to be a part of the A Cappella Choir. Gifted freshman girls are able to move to Treble Choir as sophomores. This year, 20 of the 80 freshman girls were selected to move to Treble Choir. Seventeen current sophomore girls have passed the audition to be a part of the A Cappella Choir for next year. Boys will continue to be a part of the Concert Choir their sophomore year and the A Cappella Choir as juniors and seniors as they are ready, musically. Please note that students will be auditioned on an annual basis. Students develop and grow at different rates; as skills are developed, students will be placed appropriately.

We are excited to offer excellent opportunities with our regular track of choir classes. All freshmen will be a part of the freshman choir. Most sophomores will be in the Concert Choir and will focus on skill development through performance to prepare for the advanced level choirs. Juniors and seniors will be given opportunities to participate in either the Treble Choir (girls) or the A Cappella Choir (Girls and Boys).



♪ Membership is where it all begins ♪

The membership committee has finalized the application and incentives program and will be ready to start taking membership when we return to school in the fall. There are many benefits to joining the Downers Grove South Choral Boosters. Look for further information at Open House, Meet the Choirs Night and the next issue of the Voices Newsletter.

♪ 2009-2010 Choral Booster ♪ ♪ Executive Board ♪

This year we have charted a new course and created a map for others to follow into the future. I want to extend a special note of thanks to this year's Choral Booster Executive Board who have done an outstanding job in only our second year of existence. An extra note of thanks goes out to Lori Oestermeyer and Jane Zielinski who both have graduating seniors and will be moving on to new endeavors. Best of luck.

The following parents have been elected to serve on the Executive Board for the 2009-2010 school year.

Name	Position	E-mail
Sue Utesch	President	chilipeppermom@gmail.com
Carol Fendrick	Secretary	cfenddsonnenb@sbcglobal.net
John Kohls	Treasurer	johnkohls@sbcglobal.net
Bob Schreck	V.P. – Committee Liaison	rschreck@mwe.com
Steve & Jan Junk	V.P. - Communications	stevengjunk@aol.com jkjunk@aol.com
Debbie Stelling	V.P. - Fundraising	debbiestelling@comcast.net
Nancy Rick-Janis	V.P. - Hospitality	nancyjanis@netscape.net
Kathy Schreck	V.P. - Hospitality	rschreck@mwe.com
Liz O'Toole	V.P. – Membership	lotjot@aol.com
Diane Richard	V.P. – Volunteer Coordinator	dianegr07@aol.com

♪ Private Voice Lessons ♪

It is not too early to begin thinking about private voice lessons for the fall. The DGS voice teachers are now registering new students for the fall. Some teachers also provide lessons throughout the summer. Private lessons are conducted at the school before, after or during the school day. On the right is the list of available teachers and their contact information.

Name	Phone Number
Amanda King	773-899-6518
Colleen Lingenfelter	630-546-1879
Holley Mckee	630-483-9198
Ingrid Mueller	630-968-6198
Jeff Ray	815-577-6470

\$ Student Accounts \$

Parents don't forget your students can request money from their student account to be used for any approved choir related fees (private lessons, required ensemble apparel, camp, trips, etc.). All they need to do is to check their balance on the Student Account list posted in the Choir Room and complete a Student Account Refund Request Form. This form should be completed and deposited in the choir mailbox in the Choir Room. Requests approved by the appropriate Choir Director will be reviewed at the monthly Choral Boosters board meeting. Upon approval, a reimbursement shall be made and that amount shall be deducted from the Student Account balance.

If you are a senior or a student who will not be returning to the choir program the following year, you must make your final requests for reimbursement by May 15th.

♪ World Music Show ♪

Feed my Starving Children Philanthropy

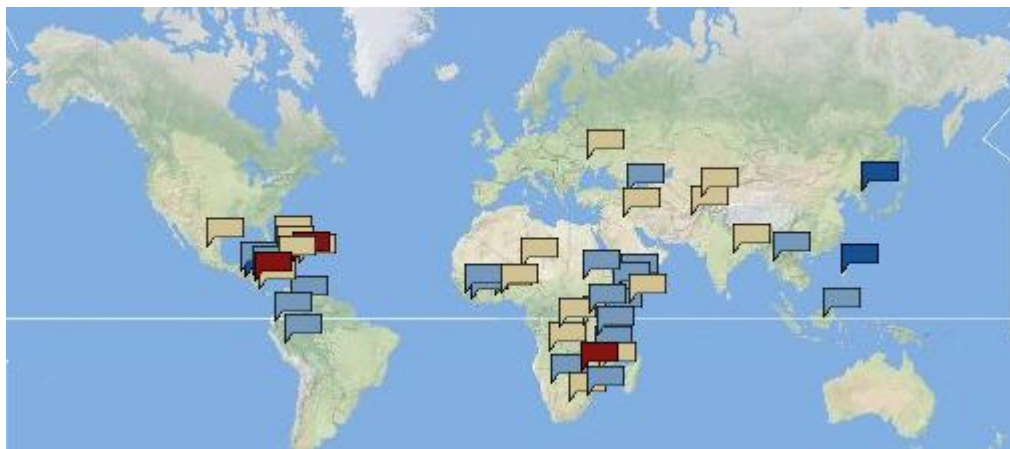
Don't miss the choir show on Thursday, May 14th or Friday May 15th at 7:00 PM. The focus of the show is world music and the students are learning about many different cultures throughout the world. The following is a snapshot of what your son/daughter has experienced in class. The freshman had a clinic with parent, Chris Kanatas on Greek dance and with parent, Russell Lane on Israeli singing. The Treble Choir has had clinics with Indian Fusion dance instructor, Sue Gangwani of Naperville. They will also learn about the Filipino dance with bamboo sticks called "Tinikling". Concert Choir had a choreography clinic with Amanda Tanquay, DGS alum, on Brazilian style movement. Shasta Hudd, administrative asst. as DGS and Hawaiian dance instructor led the freshman in learning gestures to tell the story and express the text of their song, Aloha Oe'. Our own Belford Hernandez has been able to help all the choirs with his expertise with Latin music.



DGS choir students helped at the "Feed My Starving Children" warehouse in Aurora on Saturday, May 2nd. Their service included packaging 3,888 meals that will be sent all over the world to children that are hungry. Thanks to these students who were willing to give if their time during their weekend to help others!

The Treble Choir will be selling friendship bracelets during lunch periods this week to students for \$1. All of the proceeds will go to "Feed My Starving Children". It costs only 17 cents to provide a meal. We are hoping to raise \$1,000 or 6,000 meals.

To learn more about this organization, see www.fmsc.org. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to this organization, you can give your check made out to FMSC (Feed My Starving Children) and ask your student to turn it into the mailbox in the choir room anytime until the Friday night concert. We will add your donation to our total money raised for this important cause.



♪ Brothers Sing On! ♪

On Saturday, March 28th while others were beginning their Spring Break a small group of the DGS Overtones attended the 6th Annual Chicago Children's Choir Men's Festival. Members of the Chicago Children's Choir, the Waubonsie Valley High School Choir and the Downers Grove South Overtones met early on Saturday morning at the Chicago Cultural Center to work on music arranged and selected specifically for this event. At each Men's Festival, the singers are provided with the opportunity to work with great male role models in choral music. This year, the boys were honored to work with Peter Eldridge and Darmon Meader, the men of the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble New York Voices. Peter and Darmon "do it all" from composing and arranging to singing and performing.



After a brief break for dinner the choirs performed in the Feinberg Theatre in the Spertus Institute on Michigan Avenue. The audience was treated to the special sound and magic that can only be created by an all male chorus.

Even though the choirs had only rehearsed together for a portion of the day they sounded like they had worked together for much longer. The show opened with the men's anthem Brothers, Sing On and continued with four other pieces that were arranged, directed and accompanied by Peter and Darmon. Then the audience was treated to a mini concert by Peter and Darmon that kept everyone tapping their toes to their jazzy pieces. The evening ended with a great display of male bonding and camaraderie as the whole group came together to sing Peter Eldridge's "Full Grown Men."



♪ Student Fundraising ♪

One of the key functions of any Booster group is to help to provide funding for opportunities and expenses that cannot be funded through the normal school resources. The DGS Choral Boosters are striving to provide a number of different options each year to generate this funding. We know that parents and students get overwhelmed with participating in fundraisers so we are working hard to make sure that we chose fundraisers that fit in with things you are all ready doing and meet your needs.

In addition we are working with both Band and FOFA on collaborative fundraisers so that students can chose to participate in those things that make sense for them and their families. Every fundraiser is designated to support either choir department needs, choral booster operating needs the individual student accounts or the student summer scholarship fund.

- We just finished our last Jewel Shop & Share for this school year and the plant sale that was in collaboration with Band Boosters.
- We are trying to get a Steak N Shake Fundraiser for one of the days after final exams. Look for information on that.
- Coming in September is Bike and Hike for Mike. This is a student accounts fundraiser and e-mail information will be coming out this summer or check the website for further information. You will want to start getting sponsors before school starts.
- In September we have our biggest fundraiser which is our Gift Wrap Fundraiser. We have switched vendors this year and will be using Market Day. We plan on having this run much more problem free then last years.
- The last weekend of September we are trying to arrange collaboration with Band Booster on Kiwanis's Peanut Days Sale. We would need volunteers to sell the peanuts on the street and at stores. We would then share in the profits.
- We will be arranging more Shop & Share and Steak N Shake for the 2009 -2010 school year. We will also have our collaborations with Band Boosters with the Cheese Cake, Butter Braid, and Plant Sales.

We would like to put together a Fundraising Committee over the summer for the upcoming New York trip. If you are interested please e-mail Debbie Stelling at debbiestelling@comcast.net.



♪ Anything Goes ♪

April 16-19 the Downers Grove South Music Department presented the Musical "Anything Goes". Cast and crew, along with the audience had a splendid time!
To everyone who helped out:

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for everyone who pitched in and helped during the musical. Not only did you help make things run smoothly, but this was truly one of the most efficient processes I have been a part of. You were truly the "silent support" behind each student. They greatly appreciated all of your time and effort. Especially the water.....(yes, cups were the best idea....yeah Cindy) and freshly steamed/pressed clothing.....to the roses that they received from family and friends to the last minute run out for batteries for the mics....(yeah Maureen). The costume check-in.....Never have I seen such organization and speed. It truly was amazing to watch.

I was clearly able to focus more on the students' success because I was able to send an email and confidently know that whatever task needed to be done, there was a parent to jump right in.

I truly was overwhelmed with gratitude.....

The musical is truly a community effort. There is NOTHING like a strong, supportive parent group.

I can confidently say "You're the Top" DGS choral boosters!!

With great appreciation,
Jay Belt-Roselieb

It's hard to believe that the musical is over and honestly, I'm a little sad! (although, I've still got the songs running through my head) I know the kids are exhausted but thrilled with how the show turned out.

Thank you VERY much to all of you for volunteering your time & talents. Thank you for being patient and willing to make adjustments when shift times or tasks changed. Thank you for stepping up when we needed extra help. With our combined efforts, I think we helped to make things run smoothly. I know the kids & directors appreciated your involvement too!

To the parents of seniors: Congratulations! This is bittersweet as your kids move on to other things. We will miss you!!

To the rest of the parents: We're not done! We'll be contacting you for help with next year's show.

Thanks again!
Sue Utesch

We want to extend a **special** thank you to our Musical Chair people Cindy Strelecky, Ed Strelecky & Beverly Tripp. Over the past 2 years they have done an outstanding job of coordinating the publicity and concessions for the musical. Unfortunately Mallory Strelecky and Jenny Tripp are both graduating seniors so Cindy, Ed and Beverly have retired from their musical duties as of the close of the "Anything Goes" show. Have you been looking for a way to get involved? Here it is. . . Contact Sue Utesch at (630) 985-6972 or by e-mail at chilipeppermom@gmail.com for more details on becoming the Musical Chairperson.



🍴 1st Annual Choir Banquet 🍴

Sunday May 17th the Choral Boosters will host our First Annual DGS Choir Banquet. You should have seen a reservation form come home from school. Here's a chance for students and family to celebrate the year together. All choir students and family are invited. Reservations are required. Dinner will be served (\$11.00 per person) in the cafeteria followed by a brief program and distribution of awards. Contact Kathy Schreck (963-3073) or Nancy Janis (512-0079) to help, ask questions or submit a reservation.

🎵 Save the Dates 🎵

2009-2010 South High School Fine Arts Calendar

"Igniting a passion for the arts in every learner."

Draft as of April 22, 2009 (Dates subject to change)

Date	Event	Time	Place	Ensemble
August 31	Band Boosters/FOFA	7:00 PM	B120/B124	Parents
September 12	Bike and Hike for Mike	All Day	Woodridge	Select Students
14	Meet the Choirs Night	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
28-29	Homecoming Show Tech	6:30-9:00 PM	Auditorium	Select Students
30	Homecoming Show	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Select Students
October 1	Homecoming Show	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Select Students
5	Band Boosters/FOFA	7:00 PM	B120/B124	Parents
5	IMEA Choir Help Session	6-8 PM	Music Suite	Select Students
12	IMEA Choir Help Session	6-8 PM	Music Suite	Select Students
13	IMEA Auditions	After School	Hinsdale Central HS	Select Students
19	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
19	Freshmen Choir Mixer	3:30-6:00 PM	Auditorium/Cafetorium	Freshmen Choir Students
22	Choirs Concert	7:00 PM	Auditorium	DGS Choirs
November 2	Band Boosters/FOFA	7:00 PM	B120/B124	Parents
9	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
13	Middle School Choir Festival	7:00 PM	Auditorium	DGS Choirs
21	IMEA District Festival	All Day	Lincoln-Way West	SS
December 7	Band Boosters/FOFA	7:00 PM	B120/B124	Parents
9	Holiday Concert Rehearsal	All Day	Gymnasium	SS
10	Holiday Concert	7:00 PM	Gymnasium	DGS Choir, Orch, WE, WS
11	Holiday Concert Assembly	TBA	Gymnasium	DGS Choir, Orch, WE, WS
14	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
18	Jefferson JHS Performance	TBA	Jefferson JHS	Choirs
18	CSO Performance	TBA	Symphony Center	Madrigal Singers
January 4	Band Boosters/FOFA	7:00 PM	B120/B124	Parents
11	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
1/27-30	IMEA All-State	All Day	Peoria, IL	SS
February 1	Band Boosters/FOFA	7:00 PM	B120/B124	Parents
8	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
11	Vocal Festival	All Day	Music Suite	DGS Choirs
23	DGS Choirs "Bon Voyage"	7:00 PM	Auditorium	DGS Choirs
25-March 2	DGS Choirs/NYC Tour	All Day	New York, NY	DGS Choirs
March 8	Band Boosters/FOFA	7:00 PM	B120/B124	Parents
9	D99 Honors Vocal Recital	7:00 PM	Gloria Dei	SS
15	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
April 12	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
15-18	Musical	TBA	Auditorium	PO, A
May 10	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	Ensemble Room	Choir Parents
17	Choir Show Dress Rehearsal	6-9:00 PM	Auditorium	DGS Choirs
20-21	Choir Show	7:00 PM	Auditorium	DGS Choirs
21	Choir Show for Sender Schools	Morning	Auditorium	DGS Choirs
23	Choir Banquet/Select Concert	1:00 PM	Cafetorium/Auditorium	DGS Choirs
27	Spring Concert	7:00 PM	Auditorium	WE, A
30	Select Ensembles Concert	5:00 PM	TBD	Select Choral Ensembles
June 2	Madrigal Singers Concert	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Madrigals
4	Graduation	5:00 PM	Stadium	WE, A

A = A Capella; CS = Chamber Singers; M = Madrigals; SS = Select Students; TE = Treble Ensemble; WE = Wind Ensemble