

**Main Street School of Performing Arts  
NewsletterSeptember 2008**

**Notes from the Principal**

The school year is off to a wonderful start. We have opened with close to 250 students which is almost 25% growth from last year. We are excited to welcome several new staff members - Tracy Johnson – Science, Devin Malone – Special Education, Diane Maus – Spanish, and Alison Phillips and Dominique Walsh – Mathematics. We are also excited to have Ms. Samantha Thompson still with us as our new Data and Assessment Coordinator. We want to really use our data to continually improve the instructional program for our students. We are focused on continued training in differentiated instruction and increased emphasis on all staff supporting the improvement of math skills. We know that these efforts will result in increased success for our students.

Our school theme is “A Year in your life...”. The theme speaks of making the best of every moment we have in life. For our students, it speaks of making the most of every minute here at MSSPA. We want every student to become a part of classes, performances and activities available at MSSPA. Our theme is especially relevant given our spring musical production of RENT. RENT speaks of choices made in life and the relationships we build during our lives. Auditions for RENT and all of our fall shows are this month. We encourage every student to try out and make this the best year of their life.

We have also begun work on our annual capital campaign – Spark the Arts. Our goal is to raise the needed \$100,000 for our program budget. We will be asking for everyone’s help in meeting this goal. Spark the Arts is a 2 part campaign - An ask letter campaign in the fall to ask friends of MSSPA to contribute to our program, and an Auction Benefit Gala at Trocadero on February 7, 2009.

We need corporate and individual sponsors to help defray the cost of our gala event. We are also looking for individuals to assist with the silent auction, decorating, and public relations & marketing for the campaign. If you know of any potential sponsors for the gala, or if you would like to assist with the letter writing campaign, or you want to help with any of the items mentioned above, I invite you to come to our next meeting on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 p.m. at MSSPA. The meeting is conveniently scheduled just before the start of Open House. If you can not attend the meeting, but can help with the event or enlisting sponsors please contact Mrs. Charles at 952-224-1342. Thanks to those individuals who have already indicated their desire to jump in and help.

MSSPA has had four wonderful years of educating students and this year is going to be even better. This will be a great “Year in the life” of MSSPA.

**September Dates to Remember:**

Sept 9-10 Fall show auditions 2:45 p.m.  
Sept 11 Open House 7:30 p.m.  
Sept 20 RENT & One Act auditions 10 a.m.  
Sept 22 School Picture Day  
Sept 23 2-hour Late Start (school starts at 9:55)  
Sept 26 MSSPA Homecoming Picnic 5:30 p.m.  
No Shame 7:30 p.m.  
Sept 27 MSSPA Homecoming Dance 7:30 p.m.  
Oct 2 Early Release (school ends at 11:43)

**PTO NEWS**

**The Homecoming Picnic is a family event!** Friday, September 26, 5:30 - 7:00 Rain or Shine.

At the park behind school or inside if it's raining.  
A picnic dinner will be provided. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.  
Games and Prizes!

**Buy your tickets early and save!**

Tickets \$4.00 per person or \$16.00 per family if purchased by 9/19.  
After 9/19 tickets will be \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family.  
Please make checks payable to MSSPA PTO and return it to school.  
Ticket form is on a flyer mailed to your home earlier or one is available in the office.  
Join in the fun, meet new families, reconnect with friends.

Then stay for the year's first **NO SHAME performance** at 7:30 at the school. Music and Theater and Dance.

**ONE GREAT EVENING - ONE GREAT TIME!**

Homecoming Dance is Saturday, September 27 at the school. Details to follow.

**HELP US HELP OUR SCHOOL - DOING THESE SIMPLE THINGS HELPS US RAISE FUNDS...** at school.

- 1 - Recycle your old cell phones and inkjet and laser cartridges
- 2 - **Designate our school at Target** for their Take Charge of Education program.
- 3 - **Use our Max Perks #117628809** on Office Max purchases.

**...TO HELP OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOL** in supporting the school by becoming a PTO member, helping at events, or in any way you like. We're looking forward to hearing from you and meeting you!

Get Connected - Join with other Main Street parents

**Volunteers are needed for Picture Day Monday, Sept. 22** beginning at 8:00 AM for 1 - 2 hour shifts during the day. If you are able to help contact Chryssomallis at [chryss@mchsi.com](mailto:chryss@mchsi.com) or 952-470-9465 or Neil Okerlund at [neildeb@bitstream.net](mailto:neildeb@bitstream.net) or 612-869-5636. Feel free to contact us if you have any PTO questions.

**PTO meeting** - Executive Committee Only - Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 PM

A Big Thank You to all of you who have contributed to the PTO and signed up to volunteer! Thank you!

### **Upcoming Performance Information**

The Fall Dance Concert will be presented in October 29-30 at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, and features the work of Karen Charles, Lara Ciganko, Betsy Maloney, Galen Treuer and Noah Bremer. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door. Come support the dance department!

### **Department Information**

Keep up to date with challenging opportunities in the Gifted and Talented Department. Check out the website at: [sites.google.com/site/msspagifted](http://sites.google.com/site/msspagifted)

### **MSSPA Spirit Wear**

Order your MSSPA spirit wear NOW in order to wear it to Homecoming and other events! Check out the on-line MSSPA spirit store at:  
[http://www.schoolidentity.com/schoolid/store.html?school\\_id=703](http://www.schoolidentity.com/schoolid/store.html?school_id=703)