

Dear Music Parent:

Sept. 28, 2009

Welcome to Lansdowne Middle School with a special welcome back to the families who have been part of our school in previous years.

Traditionally, Lansdowne has had one of the highest percentages of its students participating in its music programs. This year we are proud to say that 60% of our school is involved in music. A clearer description as to how these young musicians are grouped is provided below.

HOW IS THE MUSIC PROGRAM ORGANIZED?

The Lansdowne Music Program involves students in grades 6 through 8 and offers band, choir and strings ensembles to all students. There are more than 300 students involved in 8 bands, 2 vocal ensembles and 2 string ensembles. Many of these students are involved in more than one group and the experience these students have is invaluable.

Mr. Denver Rawson is teaching the grade 8,7,6 concert bands as well as leading the jazz ensemble and the R&B band. Mr. Nathan Georgesen will join Mr. Rawson teaching the grade 6 concert band, and R&B band as well as teaching the concert choir, and the new music exploratory being offered this year at Lansdowne Middle School. Mrs. Kimberley Haas will be teaching beginning & intermediate strings as well as advanced strings.

There has been a change in the band timetable this school year. Concert bands still rehearse three (3) times a week, with two rehearsals during the timetable and one (1) before school from 8:00-9:05. The only exception is that the grade 7 bands (Snowbirds and Thunderbirds) will have an extra early morning rehearsal once, possibly twice a month, to make up for Pro-D days and holidays. A detailed calendar explaining these extra rehearsals will be provided to grade 7 students in the following weeks. This timetable change increases our number of instructional minutes while giving advisory teachers more time to focus on curriculum during the day. Please see the schedule included to note the rehearsal times for all ensembles.

One of our main goals when working with your child is that of a well rounded music education with public performance being just one aspect. A thorough understanding of conducting as well as theoretical, historical and compositional elements is essential. Therefore, your child will occasionally have written homework along with his/her regular practicing requirements.

In addition to the above mentioned musical objectives, we also include other goals such as dependability, responsibility, punctuality and co-operation.

PRACTICING

All BAND students are expected to practice at least 20 minutes daily, six days a week; greater practice from this minimum will result in greater progress. To help with this process, Lansdowne band students complete practice cards as a way to build personal practice time into their daily routine and facilitate communication between the school and home.

Practice Cards are issued to all grades. These cards are used to keep track of the minutes of daily practice completed. As the parent/guardian, your support is needed to help foster these new habits. In a way, you are our "At Home Coach" to help motivate their interest and abilities. **We ask that you sign the practice card at the end of each week** just before it is turned in. The cards are to be submitted at the beginning of the first class of each week and will be returned the following class.

Students are expected to achieve a 2. Anything above exceeds expectations.

- "3" - Exceeds expectation - 30 minutes - 6 days
- "2" - Meets expectation - 20 minutes - 6 days
- "1" - Below expectation - 10 minutes - 6 days
- "0" - Incomplete - Any amount less than 10 minutes daily
- card is not submitted
- card is submitted without the parent's signature
- * - one mark is deducted for a card submitted late (i.e. a "3" becomes a "2")

Our aim is for students to have a successful practice routine. The following can be a guide:

- To set a goal to be achieved during the practice time
- To select a time of day that will be as free as possible from interruptions and try to use this time, or one similar, each day of the week. **Practice is most beneficial when it occurs on a regular basis.**
- To choose a place where there will be freedom from distractions. Be certain to use a music stand to ensure correct posture.
- To be self-critical: isolate troublesome passages or exercises and work on them. **Practice them slowly and correctly first**, then work for speed.
ACCURACY MUST COME BEFORE SPEED!

We hope to see you at our upcoming **Music Parent's AGM on Monday, Oct. 5**, at **7:00pm** in the Band Annex.

Sincerely,
Mr. Rawson, Mr. Georgesen, & Mrs. Haas
Music Instructors

TIME/BLK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8am – 9am	Alternating Gr. 7 Band (See calendar); Beg/Int Strings	Falcons Band (Gr. 6); Advanced Strings	SkyCats Band (Combined Gr. 8); Beg/Int Strings	Clippers Band (Gr. 6); Advanced Strings	Birds Band (Combined Gr. 7)
1 st Blk	Clippers	Snowbirds	-	-	Skyliners
2 nd Blk	Falcons	-	-	-	-
3 rd Blk	-	Thunderbirds	Snowbirds	Showcats	Falcons
Lunch	Jazz Ensemble	-	Jazz Ensemble	Concert Choir	R&B Band and Vcl Jazz
4 th Blk	Skyliners	Clippers	-	-	-
5 th Blk	Showcats	-	-	Thunderbirds	-
3:10 – 4pm	Concert Choir	R&B Band and Vcl Jazz	-	Jazz Ensemble	-

Instrument donations

Do you have an old instrument gathering dust in the closet? Instrument donations are accepted year round through the Lansdowne Music Department. They are greatly appreciated and help us maintain a high standard of musical performance. Tax receipts are available.

DATES TO REMEMBER – 2009/2010

MUSIC PARENTS AGM –

Monday, Oct. 5 – 7:00 p.m. – Band Annex

“WINTER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC” CONCERT –

Tuesday, Dec. 8 – 7:00 p.m. – Lansdowne Gym

Wednesday, Dec. 9 – 7:00 p.m. – Lansdowne Gym

MUSICAL DESSERTS –

Friday, Feb. 5 – 7:00 p.m. – 1st Metropolitan Church (Quadra & Balmoral)

“SOUNDS OF SPRING” CONCERT

Tuesday, March 2 – 7:00 p.m. – Lansdowne Gym

Wednesday, March 3 – 7:00 p.m. – Lansdowne Gym*

GRADE 6, 7, 8 MUSIC TRIPS (Tentative)

Dates and Destinations – TBD

“JUBILATION IN JUNE” CONCERT

Tuesday, June 1st – 7:00 p.m. – TBD

Wednesday, June 2nd – 7:00 p.m. – TBD

EMAIL US!!!

lansdownemusic@gmail.com

We are looking to make communication as easy as possible! If you would like to be a part of our mailing list or be contacted directly through email, please send us an email to the address above.

Please include the following in the subject line:

Student name, Grade, which band they are in (ex: Clippers)

NEWS FROM THE LMPA

Dear Lansdowne Music Parents,

On behalf of the Lansdowne Music Parents Association Executive, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all those new and returning music parents. Returning parents know how fortunate our children are to be able to participate in such a rich and varied program, and how devoted and talented our music teachers are. We also have a committed group of music parents that work hard together to provide support to this excellent program and have a lot of fun doing it. We meet once a month to do a variety of things such as planning policy, and organizing fundraising activities. We do so in order that your children can earn money for their individual accounts and so the association can enrich the music program in a variety of ways, such as by purchasing instruments and equipment, and organizing special musical events. Some of our executive members are returning, but we still need people to fill some of the positions.

Please find enclosed information on our planned Fund Raising for this year, Fund Raising Policies and Executive positions to be filled.

So if you believe that music education is a crucial component to the development of our children, come out and join us at the AGM on October 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Band Annex.

Sincerely;

LMPA Executive



NOTICE

Lansdowne Music Parents' Association invites you to their
2009-2010 **Annual General Meeting**

When: Monday, October 5, 7:00 pm
Where: Lansdowne Band Annex

If your child is participating in Band, Strings or Choral music at Lansdowne Middle School, you should plan to attend.

- Meet your child's teacher
- Hear about this year's program objectives
- Learn about how to offset your child's program costs
 - Help us elect a new executive

Uniform Swap

Wondering what to do with your child's old band uniform? Wondering where to get affordable black pants? The LMPA has planned a band uniform clothing swap. Beginning after the last band concert of the year (June 3-4) there will be a drop box just inside the door to the band room for the **collection** of gently used, **clean**, black pants, skirts and shoes. We encourage students to keep their t-shirts, but they are welcome in the drop box too. Clothing will be available **free** at the LMPA AGM on Monday, October 5.

Lansdowne Music Parents' Association

Executive Positions for 2009/2010

President Leigh Ann White

Holiday Wreath Coordinator Heidi Graham

Vice-President _____

Fairways Gift Certificates Judy Aalders

Co-Treasurers Cara Webb, Monica Tolson

Purdy's Chocolates Coordinator Monica Tolson

Secretary _____

Concert Bake Sale Coordinator _____

Grade 6 Rep _____

Poinsettia Sales Coordinator _____

Grade 7 Rep _____

Photos Coordinator _____

Grade 8 Rep _____

Musical Desserts Coordinators (x4)

Strings Rep _____

Choir Rep _____

Coffee Coordinator Anne Daudlin

PAC Rep _____

Uniforms Coordinator _____

Communications Liaison _____

Data Input _____

AMOS Rep _____

Job Description
Volunteer Positions To Be Filled:

LMPA 2009-20010

President: Oversees all activities of the LMPA. Chairs monthly meetings and sets agenda in consultation with music teachers. Ensures all executive members are informed about meetings.

Secretary: Attends monthly LMPA meetings and takes minutes. Distributes minutes to all members in a timely fashion.

Grade Representatives: Attend monthly meetings. Contribute ideas and opinions taking the needs of the grade they represent into consideration.

Choir Representative: Attends monthly meetings. Contributes ideas and opinions taking the needs of choir students into consideration.

PAC Representative: Attends both monthly PAC meetings and LMPA meetings. Lets PAC know what LMPA is doing and reports on PAC initiatives to LMPA.

Grocery Certificate Coordinator: Distributes Fairway Market grocery certificates to those wishing to purchase them. Collects money and arranges for money transfer to the LMPA Treasurer. Tracks the profit from grocery certificate in individual student accounts and communicates this to the Treasurer.

Concert Bake Sale Coordinator: Organizes the Concert Bake Sale. A complete list of volunteers to help is provided.

Photo Coordinator: Takes annual Band/Strings/Choir pictures or arranges for pictures to be taken. Makes up an order form and collects orders and money. Orders the pictures, organizes them alphabetically and makes them available to teachers for pick up by students.

Musical Desserts Coordinators: Four volunteers needed to organize the annual Musical Desserts evening at First Metropolitan United Church. Jobs include contacting volunteers to help out on the evening of the performances, finding silent auction donations, setting up and cleaning up the church hall before and after the event. A binder of information, including tasks, examples, and contact details is provided.

Lansdowne Music Parent's Association Proposed Fundraising Calendar

(subject to volunteers)

2009 - 2010

Month	Fundraiser	Estimated Profit	Profit Accrues To
Ongoing Starting October 15 2009	Pepper's Grocery	5%	Student
Ongoing Currently running	Fairways Gift Certificates	7%	Student
Monthly Starting October 2009	Coffee	\$3.00/lb.	Student
Winter & Spring 2009	Purdy's Chocolates	25%	Student
November 2009	Poinsettia Sale	Subject to wholesale price	Student
December 2009 March 2010 June 2010	Concert Bake Sale & 50/50 Draw	\$1,000 per concert	LMPA
February 2009	Musical Desserts	\$1,000	LMPA

Lansdowne Music Parents' Association

Fundraising Policy

(abbreviated)

- If you require financial assistance for any music tours, the LMPA is willing to donate **an amount equal to the amount your student earns through fundraising efforts**. This is strictly on a case-by-case basis. All students, regardless of financial circumstances, must be in good standing in the music program, Lansdowne Middle School, and the community in order to participate on tour. If you feel you may need financial assistance, please contact someone in the Lansdowne Music Department.
- Fundraising profits accruing to the student are tracked on an individual basis and are held in student's accounts.
- Money raised through LMPA fundraising initiatives and housed in student accounts remains the property of Lansdowne Music Parents' Association.
- Families may access funds in individual student accounts for school music program expenses such as uniform purchase, trip costs, or instrument rental. Proof of rental must be shown. Funds may not be used for out-of-school programs and balances are not transportable to another school.
- All monies raised for individual accounts may be kept in trust for future siblings, however, you must contact the treasurer by June 15 of the year your child is leaving Lansdowne, in order to do so. In cases where funds remain in student accounts after all family members have graduated, the balance will be used by the LMPA for the enhancement of the music program.
- Fundraising profits accruing to the LMPA are used for the benefit of all music students at Lansdowne Middle School. Teaching staff identifies needs and brings requests to the LMPA. All expenditures are voted on at monthly executive meetings. Examples of past purchases include:
 - Purchase of string bass bows and cases;
 - Purchase of a baritone saxophone;
 - Purchase of computer music software;
 - Purchase of artwork in the Performing Arts Annex.

LANSDOWNE MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

VOLUNTEER SHEET

REGARDLESS OF YOUR AVAILABILITY TO VOLUNTEER, ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE ASKED TO RETURN THIS FORM SO THAT WE KNOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT AND READ IT.

Please fill out the information below and check the areas where you would be able to assist in some way. **Return this at the LMPA Annual General meeting on Monday, Oct. 5, or send it to school with your child prior to this date.**

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

Grade-____ Adv. ____

PARENT #1 NAME: _____

Phone (Home) _____

Email _____

PARENT #2 NAME: _____

Phone (Home) _____

Email _____

Please check which of the following you would be available to volunteer for:

___ EXECUTIVE MEMBER. Participate in our monthly meetings. See attached executive position descriptions and vacancies. Position of interest to you is _____ .

___ PHONING PARENT. To phone parents for such things as bake sales.

___ POINSETTIA SALE ASSISTANT. To assist for approx. 1-2 hrs. on a Saturday morning in early December when we distribute these to the students.

___ BAKE SALES FOR CONCERTS. See Below.

___ ASSISTING AT CONCERTS. Assist in collecting donations, handing out programs, music support cards, etc.

___ OTHER HELP. Help with other fundraising efforts, i.e. Purdy's sorting and distribution, uniform distribution, etc.

___ Do you know of any person or business that could provide a small door prize or item for silent auction for Musical Desserts. _____

WINTER AND SPRING CONCERT BAKE SALES

The Bake Sale at our Winter Concert is a popular and lucrative fund-raiser for our band program here at Lansdowne. We rely on baking contributions from band parents and/or students. A parent volunteer will contact you to confirm when to bring baking.

___ I will contribute baking.

___ I will contribute baking AND am able to help for one evening of the sales. (pricing, selling, etc.)

___ I hate baking but will assist with phoning.

Name of baker: _____ Phone # of baker: _____