



PARENT'S NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2012

♪♪ A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR ♪♪

We did it! What an amazing week we had at Blinn in December. You worked hard and you became a real professional choir right before our very eyes. I am so proud of you. I saw singers helping each other, congratulating each other and encouraging one another. I saw beautiful expressions, focused performers and delighted audience members. I saw some young performers on stage for the very first time. I heard pure sounds, lots of consonants so I could understand the words, and voices that blended in unison and harmony. I saw nervous, excited children become more confident and professional young people on stage. That is success, people.

If you haven't already thanked your parents for all of their help in the Christmas production, please make sure you tell them how much they are appreciated. Even if they simply got you to rehearsals on time, they were there for you. Many of our parents went far above and beyond by helping us back stage, in the lobby, in the office and for car duty and many other ways. What amazing families we have in Brenham Children's Chorus.

Our staff was awesome, too, but I know the reason. It is because they love you and love making beautiful music. Now, since we love beautiful music so much, forward march! Into the new music, the retreat, Flat Stanley, the Festival Hill Tenth Anniversary Concert and wonderful rehearsal times when we can become even stronger and better artists. Wow! Just typing that made me want to start singing.

Diving into 2012,
Pam Bennett Young

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all our spectacular parents who helped make the Christmas Concert such a success! As you know, there were two full houses at both concerts and the auditorium was filled with enthusiastic parents, family, and friends. The audience was thrilled and inspired by the meaningful performance and the musical artistry of our young singers. Special thanks go to our costume chairman, Laura Upchurch, for her many, many hours of work on the costumes – making sure every singer had multiple costumes and accessories. Thank you to Merridy Anderson for sewing elf costumes, to Rebecca Timmons for sewing vests and skirts, and to Laura's mom, Wilma Coleman, for sewing aprons, hats and skirts. Thank you to Patrice Summerour and to Jeff Freeman's mom, Connie Mason, for all their work on costumes during rehearsal week and during the performance. There was a lot of ironing and sewing and repair work going on backstage! Thank you to Tiffany McGraw for assisting with just about everything during rehearsal week and during the performance. All these ladies gave of their time and talents to help our kids and we could not have done it without them. Thank you to all our committee chairmen for making sure we had parent volunteers to work the box office, chaperone, help with props, sell ornaments and DVD's, and provide snacks for the kids. Thanks to Amie Cavanaugh for making lovely, unique Chorus Christmas ornaments. In addition to thanking these parents for all their help, thanks go to Kevin Patrick and the Drama department at Blinn for such professional lighting and sound. These students were already out of school and they stayed to be a part of our production. Thank you to Jennifer Patrick and her costume class at Blinn for making the costumes for Israel and Africa and multiple aprons – a wonderful addition to the show. We appreciate and are grateful for our relationship with Blinn!

Thank you to the Orchestra!

You may not have seen them, but we had a mini-orchestra accompanying the children during the Christmas Concert: Jay Foster, Jill Stewart, Amy Bentke, and our own Martha Haydon. We appreciate these accomplished musicians sharing their musical talent and their time with the Chorus. Everyone – including the staff and children – worked hard for many months to produce such a joyous concert and it was an inspiration for everyone. Well done!

Board of Trustees

Once a month, the Board of Trustees meets to discuss ways to help and support the Chorus. This group is composed of dedicated and committed individuals who support the arts in our community and our children. Chorus parent, Jim Kolkhorst, is the president of the board and we deeply appreciate his wisdom, guidance, and leadership. Other board members are:

Don Voelter, Vice President

Beth Appel

Teri Van Horn

Penny Dahlquist, Secretary

Katie Cron

Edward Wills

Van Miller, Treasurer

Trey Hardy

We appreciate and are grateful for the time and energy these individuals devote to the Chorus.

A NOTE FROM *SINGENSPIEL* DIRECTOR

Singenspiel Singers and Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I am very excited about a new semester of music play and learning. We will be spending more time in our music reading and writing activities to get them ready to read music on their own. They will learn new terminology and songs every week, so be sure to ask them about what they're doing in class so they can review.

Have a wonderful January!

Jill Stewart, Singenspiel Director

Concert DVD

You have one more opportunity to purchase the DVD of the Christmas Concert! Don't miss being able to watch your child perform and share the memory of this concert for years to come. The DVD's are \$15 and can be ordered in the Chorus office. All orders are due on or before Tuesday, January 10 and must be prepaid. These DVD's are professionally produced and enable our parents and singers to experience the joy of the concert again and again.

BCC Retreat

BCC will be going on an overnight retreat on Friday, February 24 – Saturday, February 25 at Cathedral Oaks in Weimar, Texas. This retreat provides time for our singers to work on music for the spring concert with concentrated, uninterrupted rehearsal time. All BCC singers (grades 4 – 8) are required to attend. In addition, it's fun! Singers should be at the Community Ed Building at 4:30 pm on Friday, February 24 to be transported by BISD buses to Weimar. Specific information regarding what to bring will be sent home in the next few weeks. Mark your calendars! We still need a couple of parents to help chaperone – 2 women and 4 men. If you are interested in serving as a chaperone, please contact chaperone chairman Patrice Summerour (summerour@broadwaves.net) or the Chorus office (979-277-3897*). It's a great weekend to be with our kids!

Car Line

Please make a note of the car line schedule and mark your calendars. If you are unable to do car line on your assigned day, please trade with another Chorus parent and notify the Chorus office and/or Patrice Summerour at 979-525-1154 (BCC and BBK) or Jennifer Scheffler at 281-300-8051 (Singenspiel). Thank you.

	<u>BBK</u>	<u>Singenspiel</u>
Monday, January 9	Redmond	Hord; Jones
Monday January 16	MLK Holiday, no rehearsal	No rehearsal
Monday, January 23	Murphy	*Martin, Mercado
Monday, January 30	McGraw	Pieper; Searle

* Note car line change

BCC

Tuesday, January 3	Mendoza
Tuesday, January 10	Mercado, Beckworth
Tuesday, January 17	Ortiz, Reyna
Tuesday, January 24	Pieper**
Tuesday, January 31	Robinson, Ruiz

**We need another parent volunteer on this day.

When you have BBK and BCC car line duty, please plan to be at Community Ed by 5:20 pm. When you have Singenspiel car line duty, please plan to be at Community Ed at 4:50 pm and check in at the Chorus office. We have several BCC dates with only one car line parent. If you can volunteer to help on one of these dates, please contact the Chorus office. Thank you!

Snack Duty

When you have snack duty, please plan to be at Community Ed by 3:20 pm. Snacks and change will be provided. Thanks so much for your help!

BBK and Singenspiel		BCC	
Monday, January 9	Summerour	Tuesday, January 10	Redmond
Monday, January 16	No Rehearsal	Tuesday, January 17	Reyna
Monday, January 23	Renken	Tuesday, January 24	Need volunteer
Monday, January 30	Scheffler	Tuesday, January 31	Danysh
Monday, February 6	Need Volunteer	Tuesday, February 7	Redmond
Monday, February 13	Scheffler	Tuesday, February 14	Need Volunteer
Monday, February 20	No Rehearsal – SS, KKids	Tuesday, February 21	Need Volunteer
Monday, February 27	Need volunteer	Tuesday, February 28	Need Volunteer

Pick Up After Rehearsals

Parents, Please do not wait for your child in the back parking lot after rehearsal. There are classes at Community Ed in the evenings and others are trying to park and come in the building. Waiting in the back parking lot blocks others from parking. When you pick your child up, PLEASE get in the car line or park on the hill and come inside the building. Thanks for helping us be good neighbors and keep our singers safe as we share this building.

***New Chorus Office Phone Number**

Please make a note of our new phone number: 979-277-3897.

Please notify the office of any changes in your address, phone number, cell phone number, or e-mail (979-277-3897). Thank you for your help!

Karussell Kids

Monday Class:

Happy New Year! The Spring Semester will bring fun activities for our Karussell Kids. We will be revisiting some of our favorite songs from last semester as well as learning some new ones. The plans are in the work for us to have our first public performance in May. Please remember to send a quick snack or 50 cents for your child each week.

We try to eat quickly so we can get to our music. Also, please try to be on time for pick up. If you are there early and want to pop in and watch us sing, we would love it.

Ms. Rettig

Wednesday Class:

Happy New Year and welcome back!

Karussell Kids jumped right back into the swing of things. They love to conduct music with a light up baton. They take turns conducting the others as they play their rhythm instruments.

Their favorite song from last semester was "Aiken Drum". They love to come up with different items for his body.

"There was a man lived in the moon, in the moon, in the moon. There was a man lived in the moon and his name was Aiken Drum. His head was made of an apple, an apple, an apple. His head was made of an apple and his name was Aiken Drum." ETC.

Mrs. Deidra

Chorus Christmas Ornaments

Thanks to the kindness and artistic talent of Amie Cavanaugh, we have additional Chorus Christmas ornaments available. These lovely ornaments are a great memento of the Christmas Concert and can be displayed in your home all year long. The ornaments are \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10. Please stop by the office and see these beautiful works of art and a wonderful reminder of that inspirational concert.

BBK Musical

Mark your calendars: The annual BBK musical, "Flat Stanley", will be held on March 31 at 7 pm and on Sunday, April 1 at 2 pm at the Blinn College O'Donnell Center. There will be 4 school performances at 9:30 am: Thursday, March 29 and Friday, March 30 and at 1 pm on Thursday, March 29 and Friday, March 30. The schools will be notified regarding the absence of our singers which will be excused. Watch for more information.

There will be no BBK, Singenspiel, or Karussell Kids (Monday class)
Monday, January 16 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.
