

RSJSO PARENT NEWSLETTER

The following were the highlights and discussion topics from the parents meeting.

Concert locations: The November 17 concert will be held at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center (SPAC). The holiday concert, December 8th, is scheduled to be held at Reading High School. The spring concert, will be held at Schuylkill Valley High School. Rehearsal for both the RSO and holiday concert will be held in the morning on the day of the concert at the concert location. That is, SPAC on 11/17 and RHS on 12/8. More information will follow.

Clothing exchange: A paper was passed around for anyone to list concert clothing they may have that their child has outgrown or that may be needed. Mr. Schwartz (Andrew - Bass) will create a list of who has clothing that they no longer need and a list of those who are interested in concert dress items. The form and contact information will be posted on the website.

Concert Dress: Boys should wear black dress pants & a jacket, white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes & black socks. It does not have to be a tux. A black suit is fine. Girls should wear black *floor length* skirts or dress. No spaghetti straps, strapless or slits up to the thigh. Black pants are fine. Mrs. Miles will have a sample of a dress that will be available for purchase for about \$50-\$60. More to come on this from Mrs. Snack Lady Miles.

T-shirts: New orchestra members will get t-shirts free of charge. Mrs. Miles will be handling this. Please indicate the size your orchestra member will need. Returning members who have outgrown their t-shirt or others wishing to obtain them may also purchase them through Mrs. Miles.

Festival: For the past several years we have participated in a music festival at Hershey Park. In the past, the festival was held at a school near Hershey and then we went to Hershey Park for the day. The awards ceremony was held at Hershey Park later in the day. We plan to do another trip this year. During this event, concert dress is worn for the performance and then the students change into their RSJSO t-shirts & shorts or jeans depending on the weather. Everyone has a lot of fun & last year we had a lot of parents go to the amusement park too. We got group rate tickets for the parents. The student's ticket to the park is included in the festival fee. More to come.

Fund raiser: With the festival in mind we discussed a fund raiser. The cost of the festival last year was \$46. That was for the festival, Hershey Park & the busses to get there (it is required that the students ride the bus to the festival). In the past, we sold Hershey bars and Joe Corby items to help defray the cost. It is optional if you want to do this, some preferred to just pay the festival fee out right. Any other suggestions are welcome. More to come on the optional fund raiser, which will take place after the holidays. Participation in the fundraiser is strictly optional!

Concert tickets: Tickets for the RSO concert are strictly handled through the RSO box office. We will be looking for chaperones for the 11/17 concert. This includes a complimentary ticket. Closer to the Holiday concert date, tickets will be available for sale at rehearsal. They are also available at the door. Student/Sr.Citizen tickets are \$5 & adult tickets are \$10. Craig Carpenter will have these when they become available.

Phone chain: We asked if anyone would like to be a caller for the phone chain. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to call 5-6 parents. We will use this in the event of bad weather if we need to cancel a rehearsal or if there is a last minute location change. Usually rehearsal is cancelled by 6:30 A.M.

Absentee calls: Attendance at rehearsals is very important. If there is an absenteeism, please call Craig/Heather Carpenter. The phone number is (610) 370-5084 & e-mail is craigc67@ptd.net. If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message. Keep in mind students are allowed only 3 absences due to things like sports events and trips, so please use them wisely.

Rehearsals: It was reinforced that rehearsal start promptly at 9:30. Everyone should be tuned & in their seat by that time. So please be there by 9:15 to give yourself time to unpack your instrument, sign in, find your seat & tune.

Clean-Up: Until the student managers have been identified, it would be greatly appreciated if you can lend a hand in organizing the tables and chairs following the rehearsal. Rehearsal space is a valuable commodity, let's keep our reputation clean so that we be able to use this space for years to come. Thank you in advance for your help!

Communication & Web Site: Information concerning orchestra happenings, including rehearsals and snacks are typically posted on a dedicated RSJSO website. From time to time, orchestra information will be placed on each member's stands for

them to share with you. Also, information may be emailed. Any suggestions (and volunteers) for additional communications would be welcome.

E-mail addresses: A list was passed around for anyone to correct or update their e-mail address. We may use this as a communication tool and it is important that everyone be aware of that.

Finally, A Word on Snacks: Please remember the reason why we the students joined the orchestra.... for good snacks! Please remember your day for snacks and drinks, the students are disappointed when there are slim pickings.