



CHS Dance Parent Committee Newsletter – 01/10

11 January 2010

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Canterbury High School (CHS) Parent Dance Committee, which has recently been created in support of the students and staff of the CHS Dance Program, I wish to take this opportunity to apprise parents, staff and students of our creation, recent accomplishments and challenges we face in this upcoming year.

To begin, soon after all students adjusted to the normal school routine after returning from summer holidays, parents of students associated with the dance program were invited to a meeting to discuss the establishment of a parent support group (volunteers). The flourishing and mature dance program resident within the studios of CHS will benefit from extra support, support of current programming and of future initiatives. Not only is the group to provide that extra support, but also, an additional “voice” to the Dance staff. The idea of organizing a parent committee was well received and by the second meeting (Oct 09), the Dance Parent Committee was created.

The Committee comprises 10 executive positions, an advisor, dance department teachers and other members each of who have been vested with specific responsibilities essential in meeting Committee’s objectives in support of the staff. The committee composition is attached with this newsletter. As noted therein, it is headed by two chairpersons. Due to busy personal schedules, it was deemed practical to appoint two chairpersons so as not to detract from the effectiveness of group deliberations/activities since the Committee convenes once a month (second Monday). The composition and governance of the Committee including position responsibilities are delineated within the Committee’s terms of reference (TOR), which have recently been drafted and accepted by the group. It has yet to be reviewed by the school’s Administration, however, once all concur with its content, it will be forwarded to parents and students (anticipate no later than end-Jan).

Development of the terms of reference was crucial in providing us with an understanding of our role and individual responsibilities. That said we soon established our immediate top three priorities:

- a. fund raise for the dance program;



- b. create a Committee website; and
- c. increase awareness of CHS Dance program to maintain, if not increase, student enrolment within the program. This campaign is especially targeted at the elementary schools within the region.

Although we work steadily to tackle these priorities, they have yet to be instituted. Do not despair, we are making progress and will soon see them come to fruition. More information by respective committee members will be promulgated in due course. We also remain hopeful that our website will be up and running so that you may review information and minutes of Committee meetings from your personal computers. In the mean time, we will provide hard copy information/minutes as well as e-mail copies to those parents whose addresses are presently on file. All of this is aimed at keeping you apprised of our progress.

The challenges we face in 2010 are significant, but by no means insurmountable. This Committee vows to work effectively and enthusiastically on your behalf, however, we cannot do it alone and encourage other parent and student participation in whatever means or capacity when requested. It could be as little an hour of your time cataloguing/inventory costumes, archiving dance material, assisting with an objective (e.g. web design) or support to activities associated with Dance Night (23 & 24 Apr 10). These are just a few examples that come to mind, however, we have discussed others and determined that they will require extra participants to complete. We will keep you informed.

The CHS Dance Parent Committee remains fully committed to supporting the dance program and looks forward to working with the CHS Administration and staff in our effort to support program objectives. We are a friendly bunch and very receptive to ideas and comments, which may be expressed either in writing or personally at a committee meeting – next meeting is February 10, 2010. Until our website is activated, please forward ideas, comments or queries to me at olivepatch@rogers.com or Wendy Sewell at wendy.sewell@primus.ca and stay tuned for subsequent newsletters.

Bob Klein

Wendy Sewell

Co-Chairpersons - Dance Parent Committee