Keeping Informed at Marshall – Strategies to help parents, students and staff

It can be difficult keeping track of all the many school activities while juggling family and work schedules, and if you have students at multiple schools, it can become almost impossible! So the Marshall staff, parents and students are devising a communication strategy to help you keep informed of the essentials as well as get a sense for some of the other happenings at Marshall. The strategy that’s been designed is two pronged:

**School Bulletin** – The latest updates, details and information about what is happening around school (daily events, sports, specific announcements and a calendar of our school activities) will be posted online on Marshall’s web site:

http://marshall.osd.wednet.edu/ .

**Newsletter** – You hold the first installment of the Mustang News in your hands. We hope to publish this newsletter every 4-6 weeks, with the content going beyond the news briefs and calendar dates found in the online bulletin to also provide information about the programs and people at school. The newsletter will also be posted on the school website in an easy to access and print format, and a limited number of printed copies will also be available in the school office.

If you have comments or ideas about how to maximize the effectiveness of these communication tools to provide excellent service to the parents and students at Marshall, please contact John Hitchman.

Chess Club at Marshall? It’s Your Move!

Interest in starting a chess club at Marshall has been expressed so we need to assess whether there is enough interest to move this idea forward. The club would potentially meet once a week at Marshall in the evenings.

A great game of strategy, chess is excellent for critical and abstract thinking, planning, logic and analysis. It’s also a great social connection to others in a friendly competitive atmosphere.

If your student is interested in participating in a

**Upcoming Events & Activities:**

**December 2007**

12/4—12/12 .......... Scholastic Book Fair in the Library (see pg. 2)
12/4 .................... Winter Orchestra Concert - 7:30 pm (members arrive by 7 pm)
12/6 .................... Winter Band Concert - 7:30 pm (band members arrive by 7 pm)
12/12 .................... Winter Choir Concert - 7 pm (choir members to arrive by 6:45 pm)
12/14 .................... Marshall’s Production of “Annie” (1 pm for school & 7 pm for public)
12/19—1/1/2008 ... Winter Break! Happy & Safe Holidays to Everyone!

**January 2008**

1/2/2008 ................. First day back to school. Welcome back!
1/7 .......................... Rehearsals begin for CP/SOS “Guys & Dolls” (see pg. 2)
We want to hear from you!
Help shape the Mustang News. Tell us what topics and/or what kinds of information you’d like to read and learn about in this news publication by contacting John Hitchman via his email: (jhitchman@osd.wednet.edu)

Theater Opportunities!

Theater thrives at Marshall this year with two opportunities!

First, the drama class meets daily during 4th period, preparing a production of the fun Broadway musical, "Annie," and will perform the play twice on Friday, December 14th (at 1:00 pm for the school, and again at 7:00 pm for parents and the general public); admission is free.

Second, students can also join the upcoming Capital Playhouse/"Students on Stage" (CP/SOS) production of "Guys & Dolls." Rehearsals begin January 7th, 2008, and continue every day after school for 4 weeks with performances on February 1st and 2nd.

Cast members work closely together with the CP/SOS staff, and full participation in all rehearsals is essential and required. Every cast member gets stage time and the students learn and grow through this excellent experience. (See sidebar at right for testimonials.)

Tuition is $150 per student, and sponsorships are available. Parents and family members are strongly encouraged to participate in the fun and critical ‘behind-the-scenes’ work to support the production’s overall success.

Look for the informational flyer and required sign-up form coming soon!

Wondering if participating in this theater production is worth 4 weeks of hard work? Hear what a few of last year’s participants have to say:

"It's so fun! You learn lots and EVERYBODY gets a line!"
- Karah Stern

"It's great because everybody gets a part no matter what. It was hilariously fun!"
- Rheanna Murray

"Come be in the after-school play! I did it last year and it was so much fun! You should think about it!"
- Beth Ebbeson

The Scholastic Book Fair!

We’re excited about our upcoming Book Fair from December 4-12!

Student will visit the Fair with their class to purchase books. Parents: mark your calendars for 3 special Pre-Concert Family Shopping Times: Tuesday, 12/4, Thursday, 12/6 and Wednesday, 12/12. From 6:30—7:30 pm on each of these three evenings, you can enjoy refreshments while you shop for books and gifts. A portion of all sales will benefit Marshall!

Visit our Book Fair web site to preview the books, see our fair hours, or to volunteer. http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/tmms

Marshall’s web site: http://marshall.osd.wednet.edu/

Marshall Community Council (MCC): Parent Involvement

The purpose of the Marshall Community Council (MCC) is to support and enhance existing programs, and to create new and enriching opportunities for students, families, and staff.

In 2006-2007, the MCC efforts provided the Capital Playhouse/“Students on Stage” program which brought the live theater to Marshall for 4 weeks of professional instruction and two performances, the WASL snack support for all grades, staff appreciation week activities, a transition ceremony for 8th grade into high school, and the tremendously successful 8th grade celebration trip to Wild Waves! The MCC also supports the Marshall student community through concessions at the activity nights, sponsoring field trips, newsletters, and new this year: the Battle of the Books!

Come join us. The MCC meets at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Marshall Library. See you there!