October 4, 2009

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to announce our ninth musical to be staged at Sacred Heart Schools! The Wizard of Oz (as presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company, adapted from the motion picture screenplay), will be presented the weekend of March 26, 2010 (Friday evening, Saturday evening, and Sunday afternoon).

The musical will continue to be coordinated by Cheri Dahlen, Jill Renn, and Jane Steinfels.

Auditions

Auditions are an opportunity for students to show us everything they have to offer the production in a very short period of time. More than talent or precise skill, we look for heart- students who are animated, full of energy, are willing to take risks, give it their all, and commit to the production.

Auditions for cast members will take place on October 19th (from 3:45-6:00 PM), 20th (from 3:45-6:00 PM), 21st (from 5:00-6:00) in Ms. Dahlen’s classroom. All 6th through 8th grade students are invited and encouraged to audition.

The audition process will be similar to that of the last few years. The first step will be to complete the attached interest form and return it, signed, to Ms. Dahlen. (They may do this through their advisor.) No student may sign up for an audition (or be cast in the production) without a signed permission form from his/her parent. Then, students will sign up for a one hour audition slot in Ms. Dahlen’s classroom. Due to time constraints, slots are on a first-come, first-served basis. No more than 16 students will be auditioned together in one 60-minute slot.

The audition will consist of some warm ups, reading (choice of line reading in pairs or a monologue), and singing. Students will receive an audition packet in Ms. Dahlen’s room when they turn in their completed interest/permission form.

All students who audition will be considered equally for all roles. No special preference will be given for eighth graders or those who have been cast in previous productions. We expect to post the cast list on Monday, October 26th. Students who audition MUST be prepared to accept any role they are given.

Crew

The running crew of any theatre production is crucial to a good performance. Those who “run the show” should (and do) take as much pride in the performance as the actors. As a matter of fact, the actors are dependent on the knowledge and professionalism of the crew. Crew tasks include: building the set, costume design and fabrication, collecting and creating props, publicity, running crew (moving scenery and furniture during the production, support during the production (ushers/greeters/concessions), and lighting. Student leadership opportunities include Stage Manager and Assistants, Running Crew Captain, Costume Captain,
Master/Mistress, and Lighting captain. Students should begin to consider their interest in being a part of the crew at this time. (In some instances, cast and crew participation can and does overlap.)

Rehearsals

Participation in the musical is a significant commitment of both your and your child’s time. Please consider this as you consider your child’s potential participation in this production.

All students who are cast in the production are expected to be at a meeting/read-through on Wednesday, November 18th from 3:30-5:45. This first rehearsal will allow the cast to become acquainted with one another and read-through the script.

Rehearsals will be held two to three afternoons per week beginning the week of November 30th (probably 3:45-5:45) until the last three weeks before the performance. For those three weeks (Mon, 3/8-Thurs 3/25), daily rehearsals will be mandatory for all cast and crew members. There will also be several Saturday rehearsals (likely 12/12, 1/30, and 2/27). Please consider these times with your child’s other commitments PRIOR TO AUDITIONS (see audition form).

We realize that the rehearsal process and the basketball season/other after school classes will conflict. With that in mind, we will try to schedule rehearsals around these other activities as well as we are able. We do hope that students involved in the play will still be able to participate in the basketball season and other school activities.

Other Details

The Student Activity fee will cover many of the costs associated with this production (rights to the script, costumes, set, props, etc.). We are still committed to selling tickets and concessions to help defray the overall expenses of the production. We will also seek parent help with various aspects of the production. (Please see audition form.)

Thank you for your support of this production.

Ms. Cheri Dahlen          Mrs. Jill Renn          Ms. Jane Steinfels
Name: ___________________________________________ Class section: _______ A / B

Height: _________  Primary Interest:  

Previous performance experience:

Dance/Gymnastics experience, if any:

Do you play any instruments?

Hobbies/Sports, etc.

Please list the day and time of potential conflicts with weekday/Saturday rehearsals (school-related or not: athletics, music lessons, dance, tutor, etc). If you need additional space, please attach another sheet of paper to this form. The more complete the list, the easier it will be to put together a workable rehearsal schedule for all members of the cast.
If I am not cast in the production, I would be interested in working on the crew ________

Parents:
Would you be willing to help with/Do you have experience with ... (costumes, props, set, lighting, makeup, concessions, videotape, sound, feeding hungry actors during longer rehearsals, etc.)???

Would you be willing to be the parent coordinator for... (costumes, concessions, publicity, props, makeup, tickets, managing the “house”)?

If I am cast, I understand that I am expected to:

- Be willing to accept **any** role that I am given and understand that all students will be considered equally for all roles.
- Be present for all scheduled rehearsals. (If an emergency occurs, please notify Ms. Steinfels immediately.)
- Be on-time for all rehearsals and stay for the entire rehearsal.

We understand that these expectations are necessary in order for the limited rehearsal time to be used to its fullest potential.

Student signature ____________________________

Parent signature ____________________________