

# Strings & Things



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**THANKS!**



for your continuing support of the District 7 orchestra program!

## A long winter season is ending!

Hello Orchestra Families,

Say goodbye to those wonderful snow days! (Sick of the cold yet?) Surely all the kids used those plentiful days off to practice, right?

Later in this newsletter, Tiger Town! All-State! And more!

Don't forget, **you automatically became a member of the Orchestra Boosters** when your child registered for the orchestra program. Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters is an organization that exists for the benefit of and to help promote the Edwardsville Orchestra program and its students in grades 4 through 12. Our orchestra Booster members include parents, extended family, neighbors and friends; anyone interested in supporting our children and helping out at various events and activities.

We hold fundraising activities, help with chaperoning events, publish newsletters, and whatever else we can do to help our students and directors. **Fundraising is a necessary part of the booster club** and we always welcome any new ideas and especially any volunteer help we can get!

We would love for you to share your ideas and join us in our efforts!

The Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters

## Coming up next...

### Time for Tiger Town Concert!

Tiger Town will take place on Saturday, March 29, so mark your calendars! This is a joint concert with the elementary, middle school and high school orchestras. The students gather early in the afternoon to rehearse together, and then will share a pizza dinner provided by the Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters before the concert begins at 7 p.m. Scott Credit Union is providing bottled water for the kids, and we thank them for their help!

Each year we hold a silent auction that helps raise money for the orchestra program. In years past, we sold artwork that was frequently constructed from decommissioned instruments. This year we're auctioning off EHS parking passes and gift certificates for re-stringing your child's instrument! This is one of our best fundraisers, so drop by and maybe toss in a bid!

Bring some cash on hand, because we'll have the auto clings for sale and raffle tickets! Raffle prizes include gift certificates from Teaspoons Café, Edison's, Dewey's Pizza, two tiger-print bow hairs from Jesse Pherson, and a mini iPad!

This year's shirt will include all the students' names and a new logo. They will cost \$15, and forms should have circulated in mid-February. We launched a system to make it feasible for you to pay for the shirts online, though a few shirts will be available for purchase at the TTC.

There will be 355 students performing at the TTC. It's amazing how many students participate every year! Come see this wonderful performance and support the kids in their musical efforts. Interested in helping out with the TTC? We can always use more volunteers! Go to the EOB website if you're interested in helping us out.

### More EOB Announcements!

#### Congratulations to our students in competitions!

Bravo to the six outstanding EHS musicians who made it into the All-State Orchestra! A standing ovation, please, for Faith Tan, Evie Kupsy, Brandon Ansbro, Kat McFarland, Louisa LeCroy and Lindsey Wolfford!

And bravo as well to the middle school students who will advance to the state solo and ensemble competitions! Congratulations to William Day, Katrina Agustin, Ashlyn Dewitt, Noah Eagle, Jared Engeman, Wyatt Engeman, Casey Hoerman, Jaycie Hudson, Amber Schwertman, Sophie Schaefer, Emmie Stanifer, Alex Wang, Anna Farrar, Molly Farrar, Thomas Siganga, Rebecca Hackett, Meredith Johnson, Liz Mislan, Elizabeth Gaumer, Sheyenne Daugherty and Jacob Mulvihill, and good luck at state!

Visit our website:

[orchestraboosters.com](http://orchestraboosters.com)



**Find us on  
Facebook!  
Edwardsville  
Orchestra Boosters**

Feel free to contact the 2013-14 EOB board members with information or questions:

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## Wreath Sales were a success!

Thanks to everyone who purchased wreaths, especially when the bad weather changed our pickup plans! We estimate that the sales of the wreaths and swags netted us \$2,335. That means that even after our costs and the unexpected U-haul rental, we still made more than we estimated, and this sale gets bigger every year!

## Auto clings and case tags available now!

This is the cheapest possible way to show your support for the orchestra! It's a window cling declaring your support for the orchestra. **These awesome clings cost only \$10 each**, and they're available at every concert and the TTC. Buy them for yourself, pick up a few for grandparents and other family members, slap one on your car and show the community how proud you are of your orchestra student! New ones will be specific to your school!

Brand new: Luggage-style tags for the kids to identify their instruments! No more trying to figure out which plain black violin case belongs to your child. This one is a gift for the kids from the Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters, and will be handed out at the TTC to all the kids who participate. Free for all the kids!

## Orchestra Boosters T-shirts – for the parents!

Show your Orchestra Spirit with some EOB String Bling! Select from **your choice of spirit wear**, all in black with our jeweled logo! Fitted T-shirts are \$25; long-sleeve T-shirts are \$30; hoodies are \$45 and jackets are \$65. There is a \$3 surcharge for size XXL or larger. Order forms can be found on the Orchestra Boosters web site and at the TTC!

Shirts will be delivered to students, and delivery takes approximately 2-3 weeks from the time of ordering. Make checks payable to the Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters, and contact Caryn Mefford at [gcmefford@aol.com](mailto:gcmefford@aol.com) if you have any questions!

## Tour de Strings!

Our annual fundraiser event will take place in fall 2014. Watch our communications and website for future announcements, and we hope you'll join us at the Tour de Strings!

## Important Dates!

- IGSM Solo and Ensemble Contest, March 1
- IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest, March 8
- Tiger Town Consortium, March 29



## Fun Facts

While 91 percent of U.S. secondary schools offer music education, only 46 percent offer five or more classes per year and 57 percent offer individual or small-group instruction, according to a recent study from the U.S. Department of Education. While 97 percent of elementary schools offer some kind of music education, it drops to 89 percent among schools with high levels of poverty.

About 57 percent require coursework in the arts to graduate, up from 52 percent 10 years ago. Of those, 70 percent require only one class in the arts for graduation. Only 15 percent of schools require more than one class in the arts for graduation. However, 96 percent of schools give equal GPA weight to classes in the arts as academic subjects.

## Concerts:

### EHS

- Spring Concert, April 25, 7 p.m.
- Sunrise Mass with Greenville College and EHS Choir, May 4, Greenville College, 4 p.m.

### Middle School

- Spring Concert, Lincoln Middle School, April 29 at 7 p.m.
- Spring Concert, Liberty Middle School, May 1 at 7 p.m.
- State Solo and Ensemble Contest, May 3 at Triad Middle School

### Elementary School

- Spring Concert, Liberty Middle School, March 26 at 7 p.m.

## And a very special thank you...

...to our friends at **Scott Credit Union!** We would like to again thank and recognize SCU for their support of the Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters. SCU's generous financial commitment of \$7,500 a year through 2016 will allow us to continue to support our awesome orchestra program here in District 7.

The Boosters would like to give a special shout-out to **Lauren Hoefert, SCU Community Relations Representative**, for her dedication to our program. We will present SCU with a special plaque at the Tiger Town Consortium in appreciation for all they do in support of our orchestra program.

Thank you to Scott Credit Union for supporting music education in our schools!