

Strings & Things



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A beautiful winter season!

Hello Orchestra Families,

It has been a wonderful fall and the winter holiday season is shaping up to be beautiful!

Later in this newsletter, you'll hear about the fall fundraisers. In short: we had a wonderful time and raised a lot of money for our program! From Tour de Strings to the winter holiday concert to the wreath sales, it's been a terrific season for the orchestra so far.

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. Our meetings begin again in January, so drop by and say hello! Don't forget: Wreath pickup is THIS SATURDAY! See details later in the newsletter.

Have a wonderful holiday!

The Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters

THANKS!



for your continuing support of the District 7 orchestra program!

Decking the halls...

Wreath Sales Were a Success!

Once again this year, we sold fresh evergreen wreaths and vertical swags made from the local Mills Apple Farm. Each wreath was \$20, and the swags were \$10. The lovely fresh greenery is always a success, but this time it was SUCH a success that Mills Farm needed three extra days to keep up with our demand!

Wreath pickup took place on Saturday, Dec. 7. Please keep in mind that we reserve the right to donate or dispose of wreaths that are not picked up! We will make an effort to get it to you, but we cannot guarantee it; there are a lot of wreaths! If you missed it, please contact us as soon as possible.

Questions? Contact organizer Caryn Mefford at 410-7806 or email her at gcmefford@aol.com!

Visit our website:

orchestraboosters.com



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

More EOB Announcements!

Auto Clings available now!

This is the cheapest possible way to show your support for the orchestra! **These awesome clings cost only \$10 each**, and they're available at every concert this fall and other orchestra events.

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 uniforms for EHS orchestra!

The girls' new dresses arrived just in time for the fall concerts! Everyone was delighted to see the new uniforms for the girls, though the boys will have to wait until next year for their new jackets.

Parents are reminded that boys must wear a white shirt, black slacks and black socks and shoes with their jackets. If the jacket needs to be tailored to fit, parents are asked to take their student to Bridal Couture on Main Street, next door to Cleveland-Heath Restaurant. Ask for Susan, and the jacket will be tailored at no charge.

The new uniforms are machine-washable. Which means everyone needs to remember the rules: wash the uniforms, take care of them and keep them in

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

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good shape to turn back in at the end of the year! As before, the uniforms belong to the orchestra boosters and the school district. Take good care of them!

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.

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 if you have any questions!

Edwardsville Halloween Parade was a GLOWING success!

If you braved the cold rain on Halloween, you must have seen how “Music Lights Up the Game of Life”! Many thanks to Theresa Fuesting and her volunteers for building such a wonderful float! And the kids really loved their glowy headbands as they passed out candy despite the cold.

We also thank **Scott Credit Union** for their support of the Boosters in the parade. SCU provides and delivers the trailer upon which we build our float, and then they pull us in the parade with their fancy SCU Hummer! They also pay our entry fee and provide all the candy that we give out during the parade. Again, their dedication to our program is clear, as they sent us three volunteers who braved the cold and the rain to assist us in the parade. **We are thankful that SCU supports music education in our schools!**

To top it all off: Our float won third place in its category!

Thank you for eating pizza!

The orchestra fundraiser at Papa Murphy’s in September netted \$324 for our programs and the new uniforms! Thank you all for your delicious support!

Important Dates!

- Wreath pickup, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7
- IMEA All-State, Jan. 23-25
- IGSMAS Solo and Ensemble Contest, March 1
- IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest, March 8



Fun Facts

Secondary students who participate in band or orchestra have the lowest lifetime and current use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs, according to a 1998 study reported in the Houston Chronicle.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education studying more than 25,000 secondary school students found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show significantly higher levels of math proficiency by grade 12.

And 95 percent of Americans believe music is a key component in a child's well-rounded education, according to a 2003 Gallup survey.

Concerts:

EHS

- Holiday concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 4
- Winter concert, 7 p.m. Feb. 20

Middle School

- Holiday Concert, Liberty Middle School, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.
- Holiday Concert, Lincoln Middle School, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Elementary School

- Assembly concerts, dates TBA

Booster meetings

- EHS Orchestra Room, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.

Introductions are in order...

Meet your EOB officers and board members!

Laura Smith Jeziorski, secretary: I am the single mother of twin boys who are now sophomores at EHS. I grew up in Edwardsville, back when it was a much smaller town, and I brought my children here to attend Edwardsville schools because I knew this was the right atmosphere for my family.

One of my boys has been involved in Orchestra since fifth grade. I can still remember that little guy running up to me when I picked them up from school and announcing, "I'm going to play cello!" Not having a musical bone in my body, my immediate reaction (on the inside, of course) was "Oh no, how am I going to deal with that?" Now I am so glad that Will is involved in the Orchestra program. He has developed a wonderful group of friends, and by becoming involved with the Boosters, I have the opportunity to develop relationships with families who are also involved in supporting their children's endeavors.

Now, as I look up at the tall young man lugging his cello and music to lessons, rehearsals and concerts, I am very glad that I am able to contribute to the ECSUD7 Orchestra program through the Orchestra Boosters, because the orchestra program has given so much to my son.

Susan Payne, treasurer: I'm the new EOB treasurer and the mom of one of our high school cellists. Music has always been a huge part of my life and that of my family. I was an oboe player since fifth grade and played through college, where I majored in both business and music. After school, I continued to play with the local symphony and community band, even though my career took me in another direction.

Now, after many years of moving due to my husband's military career, we've been fortunate enough to retire in a district where music is supported and celebrated at so many levels. Having seen the music programs offered at various schools around the country makes me so grateful that we not only have an orchestra program, but that our children can start at such an early age. I'm excited to do my part in supporting this program by becoming more involved with the Boosters.

Caryn Mefford: I have been involved with the boosters for four years. I have two daughters at EHS: Noelle is a senior and Ali is a sophomore. Noelle has left her orchestral roots and now is fully committed to vocal performance and theater. Ali is a violist and has a passion for playing anything musical. Music is a huge part of our family's life: my father introduced me to classical orchestra music at age six, and I have been hooked ever since. Music simply makes everything better: school, work, relationships, everything! From my point of view, it is as essential as oxygen.

My involvement in the EOB has been extremely gratifying as I have watched the program grow, not only in number of students and financial support, but I have been privileged to watch the students' passion for playing continually increase. It is awesome to watch our students grow from elementary to high school and feel such pride in their own hard work and performance levels. The passion demonstrated by our students and teachers motivates me to do all that I can to support this awesome program.

Elizabeth Donald, newsletter: My son, Ian Smith, is at least the fourth generation of my family to be heavily involved in music; it's in our blood! His great-grandmother is an accomplished violinist who has performed in California orchestras for sixty years or more. His grandmother (and my mother) is a concert pianist and music director who performed at Tanglewood and Carnegie and directed a choir that sang for the Queen of England and President George H.W. Bush. I supported myself through college by singing in churches, nightclubs, recording sessions and stage musicals before I switched to journalism and fiction writing to make my living.

But it was Ian's idea to take up the violin, after hearing a violinist from the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra play at our church. (I would have chosen the cello – I already have one of those!) He has played the violin since elementary school and loves his time in the orchestra. It is my privilege to be involved with the Boosters and do my small part to help promote youth music programs in this community. If there is something my family knows well, it is the immense value that music brings to your life, whether child or teenager or adult, volunteer or hobby or professional. Play on!

And a very special thank you...

...to our friends at **Scott Credit Union!** Without their help and support, Tour de Strings would not run as smoothly as it does. SCU is a special partner: in addition to committing to a four-year, \$30,000 contract (\$7,500 per year!), they also work closely with us in planning all aspects of the event. They go above and beyond by sending three volunteers to Tour de Strings who manned our water stations (despite the rain!) and handed out bottles of water (also courtesy of SCU) for every participant.

Lots of kids (and adults) had fun shooting hoops with the oversized blow-up **Pop-a-Shot** which was also provided by SCU. Additionally, they added some special touches by providing the table coverings, a box of pens and our wrist bands so our SAG rider could identify everyone in our group.

Finally, they provided us with **free advertising** by posting our event on their Facebook page (exposure to 16,000 followers), their Twitter feed, and putting us up on the marquee at their Edwardsville branch.

The Boosters would like to give a special shout-out to **Lauren Hoefert, SCU Community Relations Representative**, for her dedication to our program and her commitment to making sure Tour de Strings is a successful event for us.

If you missed Tour de Strings this year, we hope you will join us in the future. Please make the commitment to participate in this important event, as it not only ensures that SCU remains a partner with us, but it is also a great way to be a part of our wonderful orchestra community and enjoy some fresh air and exercise too!



Lauren Hoefert, SCU community relations representative, presents a check of \$7,500 to Lisa Browner, EOB past president. The check is signed by Frank Padak, CEO and president.