



Music Notes



Finneytown Music Parents' Association Newsletter

Summer 2013

Dear Supporters of Finneytown's Music Program,

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! The old adage that "the only thing constant is change" has proved itself once again. New leadership in the District, new music staff members, and new Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) board members are all committed to bringing fresh perspectives as we continue to support a strong music program in Finneytown.

First, I take this opportunity to thank **Ms. Penny Sauer** for her service to our organization. Penny dedicated the last 4 years to serve as president of FMPA. We are fortunate that she will continue to chair our largest fundraising effort--the Savory Sweets cookie dough/popcorn sale. However, the true loss of Penny's leadership won't be recognized until the multitude of her random acts of kindness gradually fade.

We will also miss outgoing board members **Jeff & Kellie Smoker** who tirelessly supported the High School Band (including several years of on-site band camp and numerous picnics and other events), **Colleen Grogan** who was a strong advocate for the Orchestra program and **Marsha Grubbs** who worked for many seasons to maintain our marching band uniforms. Thank you so much for your service to our students and community!

Mr. Tyrone Olverson, our District's new superintendent, has already been actively involved in the staffing and curriculum decisions for the upcoming year. He truly recognizes the strong connection between music education and overall education achievement. We look forward to working with Mr. Olverson and the various District administrators to strengthen our program offerings and to attract and retain students.

Several staffing changes have taken place since the close of last school year. We said good bye to long-time elementary music educator **Ms. Marya Rusinak**. **Ms. Beth Hofferber** left the district and the Cincinnati area due to family purposes, and **Ms. Aimee Collins** recently found employment closer to her home as a full-time band director. Long-time accompanist **Ms. Brenda Hartman's** position with the District has not been renewed due to budget constraints.

Mr. Steve Jones and **Ms. Heidi Johnson** will be assuming new roles in our elementary schools and their combined experience will give our young students a strong start in their music education. We welcome back a familiar face as **Mr. Michael Kennedy** returns to Finneytown to assume the roles as Director of Orchestras and also assistant band director. We also extend a warm welcome to **Ms. Chelsea Lamping** who returns to the Cincinnati area after 3 years in Salt Lake City to serve as Director of Choruses.

Joining me as new members of the FMPA executive board are **Jenny Jones** and **Sandy Martens**. Jenny has already done a terrific job this summer in organizing the off-site marching band camp support effort. Sandy will be responsible for orchestra-related activities. **Brenda Dennis** and **Glenda Esslinger** will be expanding their roles and taking on the challenge of maintaining both marching band and concert band uniforms.

Every void creates opportunities for new people or new ideas to succeed. Until this year I had been just a dues-paying, concert-attending member of this fine organization. I am honored to be selected to lead the 17 members of the FMPA Executive Board and be affiliated with their hard work and success. Just like I was invited to take on a deeper level of commitment to FMPA, I challenge each of you supporters to invite others to join the fun and contribute their time, talents or treasures.

Our future success cannot be achieved through complacency. Let's work together to make music education the best possible experience for our students and staff.

Best regards,

Kevin Berlon

FMPA President

FMPA Board 2013-2014

Kevin Berlon, President

Sue Burton, Secretary

Heidi Reeb, Treasurer

Jenny Jones, VP-High School Band

Kim Fain, VP-Middle School Band

Glenda Esslinger, VP-High School Chorus

Sharon Figgs, VP-Middle School Chorus

Sandy Martens, VP-High School Orchestra

Jennifer Schmidt, VP-Middle School Orchestra

Open Position, Elementary Music Representative

Brenda Dennis and **Glenda Esslinger**, Uniforms

Angela Murphy, Membership

Bill Fessler, Webmaster

Renee Keith, Newsletter Editor

Penny Sauer, Cookie Dough Sales

Sue Burton, Luminary Kit Sales

Dan Deitsch, Bid and Buy

Anita Ruffin, School Board Representative

Finneytown Music Faculty:

Carl Phlipot, Director of Bands

Michael Kennedy, Director of Orchestras and
Asst. Director of Bands

Chelsea Lamping, Director of Choruses

Heidi Johnson, Whitaker Elementary General Music

Steve Jones, Brent Elementary General Music

Musical Chairs

By **Kevin Berlon**

There is a renewed sense of energy in our community's schools as we march into the new school year. While it may seem like the past few months have been one giant game of musical chairs, the pieces are falling into place for the continuance of a strong musical program. Here's a look at the music education staff members and their responsibilities for the 2013-2014 school year:

Mr. Carl Phlipot begins his second year on staff and is the High School and Middle School Band Director. Last year the Marching Band achieved an Excellent rating at the OMEA State Competition and was Best in Class with Superior ratings at all local OMEA contests under his direction. Mr. Phlipot also wrote the program for this year's marching band show called "The Brave".

Mr. Michael Kennedy re-joins the Finneytown music department after a year's hiatus to spend more time with his young family. He will be the HS/MS Orchestra Director and will also assist Mr. Phlipot as the assistant band director. Mr. Kennedy had been the assistant band director from 2004-2012. His undergraduate degree in Music Education is from Miami University and he obtained his Masters of Educational Leadership degree from the University of Phoenix. Welcome back, MK!

Ms. Chelsea Lamping has been hired to be the HS/MS Choir Director. Ms. Lamping obtained her undergraduate degree in Music Education (Vocal Emphasis) from Capital University in Columbus and is pursuing her Master's degree in Music from Miami University. She began her teaching career in the Forest Hills School District at Turpin High School and Nagel Middle School where her large groups, soloists and ensembles garnered Superior and Excellent ratings. For the last 3 years, Ms. Lamping has been the Choir Director in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she taught both elementary and high school chorus classes in a school district which values music education as much as Finneytown. Welcome to Finneytown, Ms. Lamping!

Ms. Heidi Johnson has moved from the HS/MS campus to Whitaker Elementary where she will teach general music to 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grade students. Ms. Johnson is a seasoned veteran of Finneytown's music education program and she will be instrumental in building a strong music foundation for our students at Whitaker.

Mr. Steve Jones has moved from Whitaker Elementary to Brent Elementary where he will teach general music to K-2nd graders. Mr. Jones has also been with the District numerous years and his enthusiasm will be contagious for our young music learners.



Finneytown Marching Band 2013

By Carl Phlipot



The band's 2013 marching band show is entitled "The Brave." Band members will salute our soldiers as they take the field at various events throughout the 2013 marching band season. Music arranged specifically for the students and show theme will take the crowd on an exciting, yet emotional journey. Red, white, and blue, memorial props, guard uniforms, and exciting digital and visual effects will add to the overall excitement of The Brave!

The band invites everyone to come out and support the Finneytown Marching Wildcats at home football games and OMEA contests.

Mark Your Calendars For This Season's OMEA Adjudicated Events



- Sept. 21
Tipp City Contest (Dayton) 5pm
- Sept. 28
Northwestern Contest (Springfield) 5pm
- Oct. 5
Marion Local Contest (Maria Stein) 5pm
- Oct. 19th
Harrison Contest (Cincinnati) 5pm
- Nov. 3rd or 10th
OMEA State Contest (University Of Dayton)

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Terry Owen, Proprietor Welcome Wildcats!

What is the Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA)?

We are a group of parents, relatives and friends of music students in the Finneytown Local School District, as well as alumni, who recognize the importance of opportunities for the study and performance of music in our schools and desire to support it. The activities of the organization are overseen by an executive board, made up of parents and music teachers, which meets monthly. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

We help fund:

- Music, supplies, equipment and instruments for all band, choir, orchestra and elementary music groups in the district
- Uniforms
- Contest fees
- Student Awards
- Scholarships for private lessons, All-State ensemble participants and college scholarships for teacher-selected graduating seniors planning to major in music

We volunteer:

- As chaperones for band camp, concerts, contests and trips
- With food donations for meals and special celebrations for students
- Our time and energy toward fundraising efforts
- As audience members and "cheerleaders" for the students in all the performing ensembles
- As hosts to outside groups who may come to our school, such as the Charity Band Festival and the Xibus String Quartet from Boston

We sponsor:

- The only student fundraiser of the year, the Fall Cookie Dough Sale
- Light up Finneytown
- The "Dinner Before the Show" Spaghetti Dinner and Bid-n-Buy
- The Music Showcase Scholarship Recital

We inform:

- Through our newsletter, *Music Notes*
- Through our website, www.finneytownfmpa.org

- On the Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) facebook page
- Through various opportunities to advocate for the importance of music programs in our schools

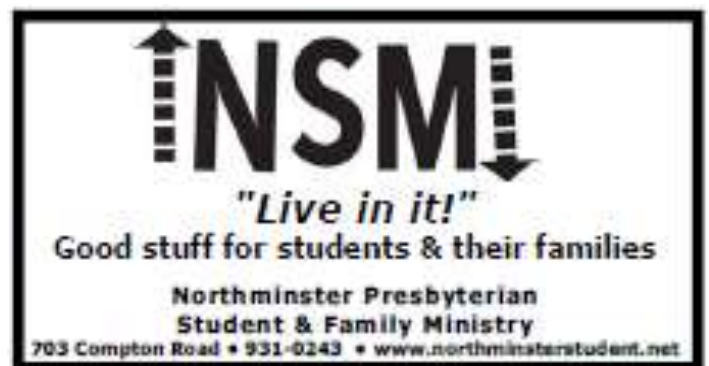
Every member is important!

- Memberships make up approximately one-fourth of our annual budget
- Membership dollars directly benefit your son/daughter's music experience
- A strong membership shows strong support of the importance of music in our schools to the school district, administration and community
- Annual family memberships are only \$25. Additional Patron or Memorial Scholarship donations are welcomed.
- You don't **have** to volunteer your time to be a member. Many members want to volunteer for certain events, and we welcome that, but this aspect of the organization is optional. Just by sending in your membership fee, you are supporting our music programs in an important way.

Items which have recently been purchased, all or in part, by FMPA funds:

- New uniforms for our marching band
- Several student-model string instruments and recorders for use by elementary students
- A baby grand piano for use during concerts in the PAC

Please join us today!



It's Almost Cookie Time Again!



By **Penny Sauer**

FMPA will once again sponsor its popular **Savory Sweets Cookie Dough and Popcorn** fall fundraiser. This is our 8th year with this company because of the quality of their products and the variety of flavors they offer that you can't find elsewhere. People in our community have come to look forward to buying these items, making them easy to sell.

This is the BIG fundraiser of the year, generating approximately 50% of the income for FMPA's annual budget. It all goes back to the music students in the form of investments like sheet music, uniforms, contest fees, instruments, awards, scholarships, etc. Also, students will again be able to earn money for their own music education accounts if they sell over 20 items. This money can then be used for things like band camp expenses, private lessons, solo and ensemble fees, reeds, or anything related to their study of music. There will also be top-seller prizes at each school.

The dates for this year's sale will be **September 30th through October 18th**, with product delivery on Thursday, **November 14th**. Our goal is to have each student sell at least 10 items. If everyone does their part, the music teachers will be able to purchase the things needed to help students succeed in their pursuit of making the beautiful music that we all get to enjoy!

Watch for information and order forms coming home with your student at the end of September.



... to show your support for Finneytown's fine music program!

It's time once again to join FMPA, and this year we're making it easier than ever. Now you can join FMPA online! Simply visit finneytown.org, select the "Support Organizations" tab, and choose "Finneytown Music Parents' Association" from the drop-down menu. Click on "FMPA Online Store" and follow the prompts.

As always, when you join FMPA, you also have an opportunity to volunteer your time and talents in various capacities. Whether it's chaperoning, hemming band or choral and orchestra uniforms, providing baked goods and drinks, or helping with our annual Dinner Before the Show fundraiser, every contribution makes our music programs even more successful.

After your membership is processed, you will receive an email containing the FMPA volunteer form. Please complete and return as soon as possible. If you're unable to volunteer your time, please know that your monetary support of FMPA is just as important to our students and the continued success of Finneytown's music program.

Looking forward to another memorable musical school year,

Angela Murphy, Membership



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ADOPT-A-PROP VETERANS MEMORIAL & FUNDRAISER

Honor your loved ones who bravely protect and defend our country!

Band members will salute our soldiers as they take the field at various events throughout the 2013 marching band season. As part of the backdrop of the show, band members and volunteers hand crafted 2'x3' sturdy wooden crosses, each representing those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

You can pay tribute to a special Veteran at every performance through the season by adopting one of these show props. By having their name added to one of our inspiring crosses, your veteran will be proudly displayed & honored at every performance throughout the season. At the end of the season you will have that cross for your own keepsake. Don't have a specific hero? Dedicate one to a branch of the service, or to those MIA POW.

All proceeds support marching band with much appreciation. The cost is \$25 for FMPA members and \$40 for non-members. Send this form to Jenny Jones, 8436 Cottonwood, Cincinnati, OH 45231

Name of Soldier:

Line 2 (rank, branch, years of service, etc):

Please limit tribute to 2 lines

Purchaser:

Phone # (for the return of the cross)

Total Paid \$ _____

Bravo, Brava!

Awards for the 2012-2013 School Year

7th Band Director Award - **Allie Towner**

8th Band Director Award - **Belinda Baty**

John Philips Sousa Award- **Chris O'Connell**

Alan Huhn Spirit Award - **Justin Anderson**

2013 All-State Band -

Janelle Bouman – Flute

Kristi Cowan – Horn

Maureen Hickey – Horn

2013 All-State Orchestra -

Kara Sauer - Horn



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Camp Crescendo 2013!

By **Jenny Jones**

Band Camp this year was held at Lions Camp Crescendo in Lebanon Junction, Kentucky. Did you know that by patronizing Camp Crescendo, we are helping offset operating expenses so that the Lions can continue to offer **free** camps to disadvantaged youth – including those with physical disabilities, HIV/AIDS and those in foster care?

With such an important humanitarian mission, it seems easier to forgive the camp of its most cursed flaw – the infamous "Suicide Hill." Although I preferred to call it "Heat Stroke Hill", apparently conquering the hill day after day during band camp has been a rite of passage for generations making the nickname stick long before our students arrived!

While the amount of walking seems to be a universal truth among students all over Finneytown (my pedometer averaged about 16,000 steps per day – and I had a vehicle there!), their ability to tame the hill seems to be a pretty good indicator of overall experience – and willingness to return next year! And as my daughter has pointed out, it's not just the walking; in an unfortunate but unavoidable twist of geographical fate, the walk *to* the field – in the mornings, cool and fresh from a good night's sleep (ok, probably not) – was *downhill*. It was the walk *from* the field back to camp after rehearsing and setting drill in the hot sun (or pouring rain) for several hours that students had to dig deep and muster the strength to get up that hill.

Really, I have to thank **Penny Sauer** because she gave **Chris Wolferst**, **Leslie Gamble** and me sage advice very early on: DON'T STOP! So for next year, my young camp charges...think inertia.



For anyone who would like to debate the degree of physical demand required for marching band, I know 96 students who would be happy to chat. And maybe one day, when they get through the long competition days with ease, they might even thank **Mr. Phlipot** for bringing them to meet Suicide Hill. March On Wildcats!

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Do you have, or know of someone who has, an instrument sitting unused in a closet somewhere? Our Music Department is seeking used instrument donations so that they can provide the opportunity for more students to participate in band or orchestra. If you can donate a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument, please contact **Carl Phlipot** at cphlipot@finneytown.org. To donate a stringed instrument, contact **Michael Kennedy** at mkenedy@finneytown.org.

Finneytown Music Parents' Association

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To the Family of:

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

♪♪ Notes on Your Calendar ♪♪

As of Aug 3, 2013

Aug 21	First Day for Grades 1-6, 7&9	Oct 14	FMPA meeting 7:00*
Aug 22	First Day for 8,10,11,&12	Oct 18	No School
Aug 30	Varsity Football (H) 7:30		Cookie Dough Sale Ends
Sep 2	No School – Labor Day		Varsity Football (A) 7:30
Sep 6	Varsity Football (A) 7:30	Oct 19	Marching Band Contest 5:00
Sep 9	FMPA meeting 7:00*	Oct 25	Varsity Football (H) 7:30
Sep 14	Varsity Football (A) 7:30	Nov 1	Varsity Football (H) 7:30
Sep 20	Varsity Football (H) 7:30	TBD	State Marching Band Contest
Sep 21	Marching Band Contest 5:00	Nov 14	Cookie Dough Delivery
Sep 27	No School		
	Varsity Football (A) 7:30		
Sep 28	Marching Band Contest 5:00		
Sep 30	Cookie Dough Sale Begins		
Oct 4	Varsity Football (A) 7:30		
Oct 5	Marching Band Contest 5:00		
Oct 10	Homecoming Parade 6:00		
Oct 11	Homecoming Game 7:30		
Oct 12	Homecoming Dance 8:00		

Visit FMPA online at

www.finneytownfmpa.org

Also visit the school website:

www.finneytown.org

*FMPA meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm in the Secondary Campus Teacher's Lunch room next to the cafeteria. All FMPA members are encouraged to attend.

**All school concerts at the Wm. Swartzel PAC are now FREE!
So come to the concerts and support our students.**