

Noise . . .

. . .from the cheap seats

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD-CARLISLE PATRONS OF PERFORMING STUDENTS

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June 2005

From the Past Prez

It has truly been an amazing year. It is difficult to even recall all the events that have taken place—the Chorus barbeque, the New York City trip, the visiting Florida chorus, the Tag Sale, *Forever Plaid*, *Steel Magnolias* the Chorus concerts, *West Side Story* and the European trip. When I think back on all these wonderful experiences that we have provided for our children, I can't help but think of all the wonderful experiences I have had working with the parents and teachers who have made this all possible. It has truly been a privilege to serve as president of CCPOPS, and I could never have done it without all the help that you have provided. We are so fortunate to have such a supportive network of volunteers who are willing to share their talents to create a better environment for our children to explore and enhance talents of their own.

Although I will no longer have a child in Chorus next year, I plan to stay involved in CCPOPS. I am very proud of the performing arts program at CCHS, and I know that my graduate has been influenced in many positive ways through the high level of music and drama that she has experienced and the spirit of community that she has shared through the music program. We will face many new challenges as we transition to a new Chorus and Drama Director, but the spirit of community has strengthened each year and will continue to provide a strong foundation for the future.

Thanks again for all your support.



Margie

THE Way to Stay Current...
ccpops.org

From the Prez

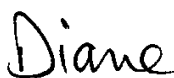
What a busy few weeks these have been—the final Spring Pops Concert with farewells to our seniors, the Cabaret/Goodbye Party for Chuck and Patty Brown at the Divinos' and the end of "the Brown era" at CCHS. When Chuck announced that he was leaving to take an administrative position in Natick, I realized that the job of President of CCPOPS would probably be different than I had expected.

As we look to the next school year there are many unanswered questions. As I write this, we do not know who the next Chorus teacher will be. We hope that we will be adding a part time Drama teacher (if the Concord override passes). We do not know exactly what the next year will bring. However, we do know that we have enthusiastic, talented kids and an incredible group of supportive parents and patrons who will continue to make great music, do great shows, and provide "behind the scenes" assistance to make it all happen.

In the next few weeks there will be candidates interviewing and "auditioning" for these positions. Thanks to Chuck's work, our program has a great reputation and I have no doubt that we will find some terrific people to carry the program forward. There will inevitably be some changes and CCPOPS can take the lead in supporting the new teachers in their work with our kids.

The calendar dates have been set for next year and they are very similar to previous years. You will find the proposed calendar elsewhere in this edition of the *Noise*. Our CCPOPS Board and Committee positions are nearly complete and I am very excited about working with a great group of parents and patrons—some returning and some new to the CCPOPS world. We are already planning our "A Time to Shine" fundraiser for October 22, 2005 (save the date!).

So "the show will go on" and I anticipate that we will all have lots of fun and many more memorable musical moments here at CCHS.



Diane Payne, President

Often I have started these reflections while traveling or when I have had time to think. This time I am sitting on the banks of the White River in Vermont. My tent is next to me, Baxter is asleep in the tall grass and Patty is staring at the river, dozing, reading. Generally we are in a relaxed mode.

This is my final article; kind of weird to think in those terms, but it is my final installment to this newsletter. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the program we have generated over the years and some of the things I think need to happen to keep it going.

When we started CCPOPS it was about helping out with the show. It has come to mean much more than that and this organization is still not fully developed. The mission of this organization has always been to “support the students in performing arts.” Like a good mission statement should, our mission sounds simple but means a lot. It means we should: help the kids, but not involve the organization in the politics of the school, district or towns; help the kids, but not interrupt the artistic process of the directors; help the kids, but not interfere with the teacher’s educational practices and artistic choices. The real mission of the organization is to enhance the students’ performances by supporting their needs before, during and after the performance.

So what do the students need? The simple answer is food, water, and all the usual things CCPOPS provides for performances. A deeper, more meaningful answer is: they need role models of people working for a common good, they need help building community, learning to trust, developing socially. They need safe environments to try new things, to explore meanings, define themselves, and learn about how to fully contribute.

They need you, their parents; they need to have you around to show you what they can do, and they need you to see them excel and mature and be part of a successful event. This I think is the role of CCPOPS—to make these things happen. This is why parent groups are so very important and why this mission works for all parties involved.

One of the things I am most proud of in my work at CCHS is CCPOPS, and I did not do most the work. It was the parent leaders who made this happen. My personal great ideas and \$4.00 will get you a cup of coffee at Starbucks. It is the people who believe in ideas; the people willing to risk and sacrifice who make any organization work. There are so many people who stood up, went the extra mile and made this organization great. They allowed for great shows, creativity, safe environments, real com-

“Passion, inspiration, life-affecting performances, real meaning, doing rather than listening, active not passive, challenge, courage, and much more is the real meaning of art.”

mitments from kids and much more. This is one area that must continue; commitment from parents to support kids in all aspects of performing. It is intrinsic to the success of this program and to the success of the students.

Communication is the second area that you must strive to maintain. I know that newsletters, emails and letters home get to be abundant; they are extremely necessary. Communication is the key to any good organization. In CCPOPS it is a thankless position. Getting the *Noise* out is a lot of work. It means editing, laying out the document, printing, stamping, folding for three hundred people. I think it is one of the most important things we do. Letting people

know what, when, who, why and how we are doing something is imperative to making some of these events happen. The *Noise* and the “announce list” are two things that need to be carefully maintained. Keep lines of communication open, you need to know what is happening and what is being offered.

The Arts are an important aspect of the development of your children. This program illustrates the need for a strong arts program in public schools. The other night, I listened to many people tell me stories of how I affected their kids, how I changed them, and I have a book of notes talking about changes in lives, inspiration and passion. I must humbly inform you that these things are not things I invented or learned in college teacher prep classes; they are what music, art, and drama are all about. Passion, inspiration, life-affecting performances, real meaning, doing rather than listening, active not passive, challenge, courage, and much more is the real meaning of art. Look at a great painting or hear a symphony, all these elements are there. This is the real stuff, the stuff of true artists and the challenge for the kids in this program. We always want to express ourselves, to be real artists. Please, let’s continue to challenge each other with this ideal. For everyone who reads this, these programs are vitally important to the development of the child. If you are not sure this is true, I think I can line up two or three... hundred people to give testimonials.

I know, I talk too much. Without a doubt, I loved working here and will always have a place in my heart for this community. Friday night at MJ’s house was unreal. I am speechless and moved when I think of the people who came to say goodbye. Thanks to everyone for all that you have done. It has been a great ride; keep living with the soul of the artist and all will work out.

With much love and gratitude,

Chuck Brown
 Director of Fine and Performing Arts
 Natick Public Schools

TENTATIVE CALENDAR DATES 2005-2006

For Chorus, Drama, Musicals and CCPOPS

September

- 7 First Day of School
- 22 Chorus BBQ
- 26 Back to School Night

October

- 3 Pre Senior District Auditions
- 8-9 New York City Theater Trip
- 22 CCPOPS "A Time to Shine" fundraiser
- 25 Chorus Concert Rehearsal
- 26 Chorus Concert

November

- 4, 5, 6 Fall Play
- 19 Senior District Auditions

December

- 9, 10, 11 Fall Musical
- 12-16 Spring Musical Auditions
- 20 Chorus Concert Rehearsal
- 21 Chorus Concert

January

- 4-7 Senior District Festival
- 21 Junior District Auditions
- 28 All-State Auditions

February

- 20-24 Musical Rehearsal
(during vacation week)

March

- 1 Musical Open Dress Rehearsal
- 3-5 & 10-12 Musical
- 16-18 All-State Festival
- 22-25 Junior District Festival
- 28 Chorus Concert Rehearsal
- 29 Chorus Concert
- 31 MICCA

April

- 1-2 MICCA
- 15 Possible MICCA "Stars"
at Symphony Hall, Boston
- 29 Possible MICCA "Stars"
at Mechanics Hall, Worcester

May

- 19, 20, 21 Spring Play
- 31 Pops Concert Rehearsal

June

- 1 Chorus Pops Concert

This is the proposed calendar as of June 1, 2005.
Dates may be subject to change and more events may be added.

CCPOPS 2005 – 2006
Board Positions, Committees and Committee Chairs

BOARD

President	Diane Payne
Vice President	Brenda Delsener
Vice President for Student Productions	Jane Turner Michael
Vice President for Communications	Marjorie Johnson
Secretary	Priscilla Sturges
Treasurer	Prisl Dumka
Fundraising	Patty Hecht
Members-At-Large	Margaret Coughlin Nancy Peck Margie Zuk

COMMITTEES

Archivist	VACANT
A Time to Shine	Brenda Delsener Diane Payne Margie Zuk
Concert Outfits	Nancy Birchard Diane Sneider
Dance Club	Wendy Lawson
Database	Molly Molloy-Ehrlich
Graphic Design	Priscilla Sturges
Feed the Kids	Brenda Delsener Nancy Fresella-Lee Sue Stengrevics
Front of House:	
Box Office and House	Robin Cicchetti
Concessions in the Lobby	Debbie O'Kelly
Flower sales	VACANT
Student House Manager	Cricky Cicchetti '07
Student House Assistant Manager	Jim Pearse '06
Hospitality	Anne Marks
Media	John and Jane Brewer
New York City Trip	Nancy Peck
Noise Editor	VACANT
Production Support:	
Costumes	Jennifer Jacoby Susan Yanofsky Nancy Peck
Hair /Makeup	VACANT
Promotion:	
Ads Sales for Playbill	Patty Hecht
Ticket Distribution	Erica Karban
Theater Trips	Nancy Peck Erica Karban
Webmaster	Scott Lawrence
Assistant Webmaster	Shelley Mogil

This list is current as of June 1, 2005. If you would like to help on any committee or fill one of the "vacant" positions please contact Diane Payne at [president\(at\)ccpops\(dot\)org](mailto:president(at)ccpops(dot)org).

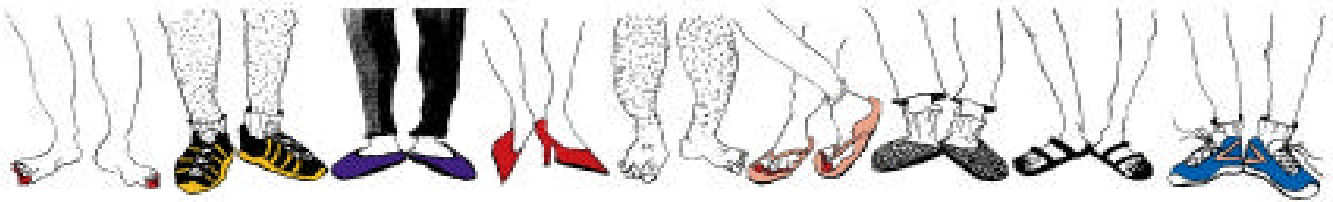
Good-bye Mr. Brown-

*Good luck with your new job in Natick.
Come back to see all our concerts, plays and musicals.
Don't ever forget us!*

We thank you, we'll miss you, we love you.

*Best wishes from,
all your kids and all of CCPOPS*

Eighteen Feet Closer to a Cure



Let's say a final "Thank you" ...

We invite you to join us in showing our appreciation for Chuck's years at CCHS. A cause that is very close to Chuck's heart (and feet) is the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Last summer, Chuck participated in the Breast Cancer 3-Day 60 Mile Walk in New York City. In October, Chuck and his team, "18 Feet Closer to a Cure," will be walking once again in Tampa Bay, Florida. What better way to honor Chuck's legacy than to sponsor him as he undertakes this walk to support such a worthy cause?

You can sponsor Chuck by going online to <http://www.the3day.org>. Click on "Tampa Bay

October 7-9, 2005." On the left side of the screen under "Donate" click on "Sponsor a Participant." Then enter "Chuck Brown," click "search," click on his name and you will be on his fundraising headquarters page where you can make a donation online and enter a tribute. You can also use the attached donation form or print a form if you would prefer to send a check by mail.

Thank you all for helping Concord and Carlisle to honor Chuck in this special way. Please call Margie Zuk (978-369-1411) or Diane Payne (978-287-5031) or e-mail [president\(at\)ccpops\(dot\)org](mailto:president(at)ccpops(dot)org) if you need any further information.