

Seasons Greetings

Ada Music Boosters, Inc.

December 2006



We're Proud of Our Kids!

Here's some good news worth sharing—you'll be proud, too!

Dave Smittle
Music Boosters President

At this special time of the year, it is common to look back and count our blessings. We are fortunate, indeed, to have so many talented young people who work hard and are genuinely good kids for which we can be immensely proud! For example, did you know it was *the students'* idea to approach Mr. Ruhlen during marching band season with an idea for a "different" half-time show at the USV game? Our kids knew USV's band was small in size, but strong in spirit. However, with their changes in band directors and other challenges, our kids didn't want to have the usual "battle of the bands" while visiting our neighbors to the south. Our kids proposed combining the bands together—we'd ask USV to share some of their music with us and we'd give them a couple of our songs. So, the week prior, despite weather delays/cancellations, both groups practiced hard to learn each other's music. The half-time show which resulted was one where all came away as winners!

Do you know about last graduation season? Sure, it's an annual tradition at Ada for the band and choir to play and sing the same old songs at the commencement ceremony in the gymnasium. You could say it's "just the way it's done." Well, do you know our choir traveled to the Simon Kenton School in Kenton to sing for the graduation ceremony of Ada student Grant Risser? The pride which must have been felt to have your own hometown school choir give you the same experience as the kids back home must have been a special feeling for Grant. And, I'm sure our kids, in return, received just as much back as they gave on that meaningful day last spring.

You know, for the most part, this is just a sampling of the average student today at Ada! Whenever our kids travel to competitions or performance venues, we generally hear nothing but positive comments. Our kids are polite and behave in a manner which reflects well on our school and community. We are proud of them for consistently acting in such a mature and responsible way! For example, the night of the playoff game at Hardin-Northern (brrr... do you remember how *cold* it was?), our marching band didn't march back to the warm awaiting busses until all of the trash under and around the temporary bleachers placed in the end-zone for us had been picked up and placed in a trash can. It's little things like this which show our kids go the extra mile. They represent us well!

In our society today, there's always a tendency for the negative actions of a few to overshadow the overriding good behavior of the majority. Kids make mistakes; they're kids. But, they learn from their mistakes and emerge stronger and wiser as a result. We all do.

For those of you who currently have students at Ada, you know what I mean when I share these stories. But, even if your kid graduated years ago, please know good values and a desire to do one's best are still the norm at Ada! That's just the way it's done "here".

Our Ada Music Boosters' New Year's resolution is to reward our kids' excellence and continually support all the great young men and women in our music education and performance programs!

All the best to you and yours at this special time of the year. Enjoy!

Cargo Trailer Purchased – It's Nice!

The truck/trailer future needs committee, comprised of Gary Cribley, Jeff Oestreich, Mike Lenhart, Bill Ruhlen, Jennifer Fincher and Don Spar is to be commended on their excellent research and recommendation to the Ada Music Boosters which resulted in the purchase of a cargo trailer to replace the current diesel truck. At the November meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to buy a 2004 model Haulmark 20' trailer for \$4,350 from Dwain Leiber of Leiber Garage in Bluffton. This is a nice cargo trailer—formerly a sprint car hauler—it has a rear ramp door, which matches up to a beaver-tail sloping interior floor (linoleum, floor covering, no less!). This will make loading/unloading a breeze. With an oversized side door and 110 volt electric—just plug it in using an extension cord and ceiling fixtures and outside spotlights will light up after-dark events!

As soon as the trailer was purchased and towed to Ada, the highly talented members of this committee kicked into high-gear and came up with some of the most unique and useful modification plans ever seen! The committee is currently working on an interior plan for customization which will enable the trailer to be used easily for both band and choir use. For example, it could travel on one trip for, let's say, the marching band going to a Friday night football game, come home, and immediately be able to accommodate a trip to a show choir competition first thing the next morning! Through the use of roll in/out modular units, this will all be accomplished quickly and easily. Uniforms, costumes, instruments, risers, percussion and other types of equipment can be accommodated in an efficient and effective way. This trailer should be able to transport almost everything needed for any foreseeable event! This modular roll on/off concept will also help when traveling to locations where the logistics of the venue are unknown; we can pull up, roll out the modular units and take them right into the host school and directly to the dressing room or stage! This same concept will also come in handy when moving equipment in and out of the new Ada school building!



Again, we appreciate the hard work of this committee which has helped this dream for our music programs become a reality!

MUSIC BOOSTER TRUCK FOR SALE

Music Boosters are selling the truck. It's a 1994 Mitsubishi Fuso with a hydraulic lift gate. Asking price: \$5,000. Contact Mike Raines, Gary Cribley or Jeff Oestreich for more details.

KEEP SAVING RECEIPTS/LABELS

Band/choir rooms are collection points for Community Market green sales receipts, UPC labels from "Our Family" brand of products and Tyson chicken A+ points. Please remember to save these and turn them in. We get cash in return for these!

COMMITTEES NEED YOUR HELP!

Various committees are being formed and need volunteers to be involved! 1.) Evaluate and provide oversight for the Kelly Drake scholarship fund, administered through the Ada Music Boosters treasury; 2.) Research hosting an Ada Marching Band Invitational at War Memorial Stadium; 3.) The 30th annual Music Feast show choir competition; and, 4.) Spring musical. Please get involved. As we DO more, we NEED more help!

BINGO NOW SMOKE-FREE

Parents are needed to work Bingo! Cindy Mowery is our new Bingo calling coordinator. Please call her at 634-1338.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Varsity Singers Rehearsals

Time is usually 6-8 p.m. on: 1/3 (4-6:00); 1/10; 1/17; 1/24; 1/31; 2/7 (will be rescheduled); 2/14; 2/21; 2/22; 2/28; 3/7; 3/14; 3/21; 4/4; 5/2; and, 5/9.

V.S. Competitions

1/20-21 GARFIELD HTS (OVERNIGHT); 1/27-28 CUYAHOGA FALLS (OVERNIGHT); 2/17 CANCELLED; 2/23-24 TWINSBURG (OVERNIGHT); 3/3 GROVE CITY (NEW!); 3/17 ST. CLAIRSVILLE (OVERNIGHT; BUT, UNDECIDED IF STAYING OVER 16-17TH OR 17-18TH). COME & CHEER!

V.S. Auditions

5/14-16 FROM 7:55-8:30 A.M. AND 3:30-5:45 P.M. 5/17 CALL-BACKS, IF NEEDED. ROSTER FOR 2007-08 V.S. TO BE POSTED 5/18.

V.S. Summer Camp

MONDAY, JULY 23 THROUGH SATURDAY, JULY 28. TIMES TBA.

Musical

Auditions have been held and casting is being wrapped up for *Bye, Bye, Birdie*. Performances are 3/30-31.

Drumline

Practices are usually 6-8:00 p.m. on: 1/3, 8, 16, 22 and 29; 2/5, 12, 19 and 26; 3/5, 12, 19 and 26; and, 4/2, 10, 16, 23 and 30.

Jazz Band

Practices are 3:45-5:00 on: 1/3, 8, 16, 22 and 29; 2/5, 12, 19 and 26; 3/5, 12, 19 and 26; and, 4/2, 10, 16, 23 and 30.

PEP Band

Perform for Games on: 12/22 (meet at 6:30); 12/27 (6:00); 12/28 (5:00); 1/12 (6:30); 1/20 (6:30); 1/25 (6:00); 1/26 (6:30); 2/3 (6:30); 2/9 (6:30); and, 2/23 (6:30).

Choir and Concert Band

2/3 OMEA H.S. Solo & Ensemble @ Lima Senior; 2/7 Winter Band Concert; 2/22 Second/Third grade musical; 3/9-10 OMEA Large Group Contest @ Lima Shawnee; 3/24 OMEA Junior High Solo & Ensemble @ Liberty-Benton; 4/26 First grade musical; 4/27-28 OMEA State Band and Choir Large Group Contest TBD; 5/3 Spring Band Concert; 5/11 Spring Fever Follies; 5/18-19 OMEA District 3 Junior High Large Group Contest @ Lincolnview; 5/22 Spring Vocal Concert, grades 6-8; 5/27 Graduation ceremony in gym.

<http://calendar.ada.k12.oh.us> <http://calendar.ada.k12.oh.us/band>

MUSIC BOOSTERS CONTACT INFO.

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PP	Marcia Prater, Past-President; H: 634-1435; O: 772-2265; C: 419-302-7554; m-prater@onu.edu
	Instrumental Music 6-12: Bill Ruhlen, ruhlenb@ada.k12.oh.us Vocal Music 6-12: Lindsey Baumgartner, baumgartnerl@ada.k12.oh.us Elementary Music, Lori Wilson, wilsonl@ada.k12.oh.us

Band Updates from Mr. Ruhlen

Mr. Ruhlen reports many exciting things happening with the numerous bands at Ada Schools. Here's just a sampling of what's happening lately and on the horizon for the rest of the year...

The high school band now has their three pieces of music selected for Ohio Music Educator's Association "Large Group" contest and are working diligently to learn the music. They'll start to get a good grasp on it before they leave for the Holiday break. Mr. Ruhlen is attempting to get a Friday night performance time for the Large Group event, so he will be sending in the application soon in an attempt to get this Friday night time. The O.M.E.A. Large Group event is scheduled for March 9th and 10th at Lima Shawnee.

The junior high band is coming along. Despite some behavior issues from some students, he reports they are having a great year so far. They're currently working on three pieces of music for the Winter Band Concert, which is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th.

Mr. Ruhlen reports the sixth grade band is amazing! He says these kids are great—they come into class wanting to play and willing to learn. He feels it is very rewarding to have them in class and thinks everyone will be pleasantly surprised when they hear them play at the Winter Band Concert.

Drumline practices have started. There are various expenses which need to be covered, such as the cost of the musical score. The Boosters are covering some of the cost of the music, as is the Stambaugh Fund from the community. The Boosters are also helping pay for percussion students from Ohio Northern to work with the drumline students. However, all of these related activities are expensive. As a result, drumline students will have a \$20 participation fee for this group. Thank you to those who have already paid their fee; those who still owe should turn it in soon. Drumline will also be doing a fund-raiser in the near future. Most likely it will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts. More details will follow after break.

Pep Band begins on December 22nd. They will play at all boy's home basketball games, as well as, some of the girl's home games.

Winter Band Concert is Feb. 7th; Spring Band Concert is Thursday, May 3rd. In closing, O.M.E.A. District III Solo & Ensemble Contest is Feb. 3rd and the instrumental department has roughly 20 "events" currently going—much better numbers than in years past! Thanks!

KUDOS, TIDBITS, SHOUT-OUTS...

ADA H.S. CHOIR TO APPEAR ON TV-44

High school choir will appear on WTLW, TV-44, as part of The Holiday Music Festival. Shows will air on Christmas Eve from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., and, on Christmas Day from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Noon to 3:00 p.m. Ada is during the 2nd hour, but this could change.

THANKS TO NEW LEAF GARDEN CENTERS FOR DECORATING

We wish to thank Laurie Laird, owner of New Leaf Garden Centers, for her time and energy in decorating the auditorium for the choir concert. The decorations were lovely and we appreciate her generous offer to do so. Please patronize New Leaf Garden Centers, with locations north of Ada and east of Kenton, for all your seasonal decorating needs! Thanks, New Leaf!

VARSITY SINGERS BACKDROP DESIGN COMPETITION

Music Boosters sponsored a competition for students to design the backdrop for this year's show choir. The winning entry was submitted by Shaun Laubis. He will receive a t-shirt from each show choir competition and a motel room upgrade on two of the overnight trips. Congratulations!

V.S. BACKDROP CONSTRUCTION

Many thanks to Ron Fleming and the men of Fleming Construction for the construction of the backdrop for the Varsity Singers competition show. Ron and his crew have provided this service for many years and we greatly appreciate it! We all look forward to the 12' tall outer space scene!

SMELL-BUSTERS

Who ya 'gonna call? When Ada's marching band travels on a rainy day next year, we'll no longer be smelled before we're heard thanks to the efforts of Patti Raines and Cheryl Reese! They spent days washing all the marching band raincoats before being stored until fall. Thank you, ladies!

LIMA MALL GIFT WRAPPING

Many thanks to all who helped gift-wrap at the community service and fund-raising event held Dec. 13 at the Lima Mall. The Varsity Singers wore Ada choir robes and walked the mall, caroling, while V.S. band and crew members, along with parents, wrapped gifts for a free-will offering at 2 mall wrapping stations. Many positive comments were received on how the nice singing added to the festive atmosphere, plus we earned about \$375 in donations in just one day! This event will be tried again next year.

4TH / 5TH MUSICAL A SUCCESS

Thank you to Mrs. Wilson and parents involved in making *Need a Little Christmas Vacation* a reality! We appreciate the hard work put in by all involved, especially the talented boys and girls who performed so well!

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

This newsletter started out with the first issue in September going to about 250 households/parents of students involved in music programs for grades 7-12, as well as, 95 administrators, teachers and staff at the school and over 150 families of 5th/6th grade students sent home by classroom teachers. Over the past few months, we've added Patrons, Music Feast sponsors and many others to the mailing list, to the point where we now distribute over 650 newsletters each month! We hope you enjoy it and find the information useful! This newsletter is very economical to print and mail. Therefore, if you know of friends or neighbors who would enjoy receiving it, simply forward their information to Dave Smittle to be added to the mailing list. Spread the word! Our goal is to ensure all families feel well-informed of the events/opportunities available to their children. Your comments/input are also welcome, as well.

PERFORMANCE GROUPS BUSY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The marching band, men's and women's choruses, concert choir and Varsity Singers (band, crew and singer/dancers) have been busy this time of the year! The marching band announced Santa's arrival by escorting his fire truck to the Depot; The Varsity Singers sang at the Depot to help the Ada Visiting Nurses with their Festival of Trees; the choir traveled to TV44 to record a performance for the TV special; V.S. also entertained at the Senior Citizens luncheon at the school, then the next day, traveled to the Kenton Moose Lodge for the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce's Holiday luncheon. And, of course, there was caroling at the Lima Mall and the Christmas Concert just before break. Good job, kids! Thanks for entertaining the community so well this time of the year!

GET READY FOR SPRING MUSICAL

Plans are being made for the spring musical *Bye, Bye, Birdie*. This production will require the assistance and involvement of many parents. We also need volunteers from the community who have experience in theatre productions. Let's all do all we can to put on a first-rate show this year! Call Mrs. B to help.

101ST INTERCLASS COMPETITION

We say "Great job" to the students who participated in the annual Interclass Competition on Dec. 4th: Ethan Collins, Kara Dysert, Allison Wilson, Emily Cribley, Jessica Stahl, Megan Elliott, Morgan Dumbaugh, Kinsey Ring, Josh Clements, Amanda Cribley, Caleb Agner and Paige Dirmeyer. Congrats to the winners: Kara Dysert, Megan Elliott, Josh Clements and Amanda Cribley!

STILL TIME TO BE A PATRON FOR 2006-07

Many thanks are extended to those who've joined Ada Music Boosters at a Patron level so far this year. Your support is invaluable as we attempt to meet the rising costs of supporting a high-quality music education in our community school. There's still time to be listed as a Patron in event programs for the remainder of the school year. To be a Patron, please send your check for \$10, 25, 50, 100 or \$250 to treasurer Jennifer Fincher, 119 West Montford Avenue.

Ada Music Boosters
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