
ARBUTUS MUSIC

October Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

October 30: Poinsettia Orders Due

November 9: Remembrance Ceremony. Choir, Grade 8 Band and Summit Strings perform.

November 22: Silent Auction items due.

November 29: Poinsettia Concert: Choir, Intermediate Strings, Summit Strings, Avalanche Band, Grade 7 Band

November 30: Poinsettia Concert. Junior Strings, Vocal Jazz, Summit Jazz, Grade 8 Band, Grade 6 Band

January 31: Elementary School concerts during morning. Choir, Band 8 and Intermediate/Summit Strings. Evening performance for Summit Jazz and Summit Strings at Arbutus Open House.

Fundraising

Over the next two months the Arbutus Music Department will be very busy with concerts and fundraisers. We greatly appreciate the support of parents during this busy time.

Each year Grade 8 music students (in Band, Choir or Strings) have the opportunity to travel overnight. To aid in the cost of this trip, we provide fundraising opportunities to our students such as Poinsettia Sales and Silent Auction. Each time a student raises money in these events, a portion of money raised is placed in an account under the student's name. Once we begin the application process for traveling with the ensembles, fundraising totals will be subtracted from the total cost of the trip. The balance of your child's account will be provided in their Grade 8 year when trip preparation begins.

Silent Auction Fundraiser

This fundraiser benefits the music program and individual student travel accounts. Letters are attached for students to hand out to businesses to request donations, and a form with instructions is included with a section to hand in with donated items so that a portion of money earned is placed in the appropriate student travel account. Items are due to Mr. Mazza or Mrs. Hill by November 22. Students are invited to donate as many items as they can, but we ask that no more than 4 donations with a value of \$20 or less are submitted, or that small value donations are combined into a gift basket. We will not be accepting any used items.

Uniforms

The Arbutus Music uniform is black Shoes (with no markings), black socks, black pants and the Arbutus Music t-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and are available from Mr. Mazza or Mrs. Hill. No child will be denied access to a resource because they cannot afford to pay. Please contact the principal or teacher if finances are an issue for you and a solution will be worked out. Privacy will be respected.

Remembrance Ceremony

The Grade 8 Band, Choir and Summit Strings will be performing in this ceremony on Thursday November 9. All students in these ensembles are expected to arrive at school in full uniform for this performance.

Contact Information

Mr. Mazza, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Montgomery

E-mail: arbutusmusic@me.com

School phone: 250-477-1878



Poinsettia Sale Fundraiser

Music students are invited to take part in this fundraiser. Funds raised through the sale of poinsettias benefit the music program, and individual student travel accounts. The order forms are attached for this fundraiser. This year we have changed the order forms. Here is the new process:

Step 1: Let friends/family/neighbours etc. know about this fundraiser. There is a sheet than be used to hand out to advertise, with a place for your contact information.

Step 2: Fill out the order spreadsheet so that each order is accounted for.

Step 3: Place the total sales numbers for each type of plant and total money collected a the bottom of the spreadsheet.

Step 4: Hand in order spreadsheet and money collected (cash or cheque) to Mr. Mazza or Mrs. Hill **no later than October 30**.

Step 5: Collect the poinsettias you sold after your Poinsettia Concert and distribute to customers.

Practicing

Daily practice is essential for your child to make progress as a developing musician, and is necessary for the overall development of the ensemble. Parent involvement is encouraged to help students develop effective practicing habits. Here are some tips you can follow to help your child succeed:

- Students should play their instruments daily for development of the muscles required to play their instrument/vocal chords. Practice sessions should be a minimum of 20 minutes to help increase stamina.
- Find a place in your home that is free from distraction and a spot where the child can make noise without feeling the need to dampen their sound. A good chair and music stand are necessary for proper posture.
- Students should review the exercises taught in class. Practice the the difficult parts in the music. When mistakes are made they should be reviewed and performed correctly. Practice makes permanent.
- Ask your child to teach you and play for you. Information is best retained when students teach others what they have learned.