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# Choir Notes

Newsletter of the Lake Highlands Area Choir Booster Club



Winter  
 2011-2012

Dear Choir Parents,

The Lake Highlands Area Choirs have had a busy and very successful fall. In this newsletter you will read of the many successes that our choral students have enjoyed individually and as part of their choirs. We feel that the music education in this area is among the best in the state. What a testament to the amazing young people we teach and the level of instruction they get from our Lake Highlands Area team. We have the privilege of teaching some wonderful young people who are incredible musicians as well!.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped our year begin smoothly. If you have some time to volunteer in any of our choir departments (addressing envelopes, filing music, etc.) call the choir office at your student's school.

Sincerely,

- Michael O'Hern** Director, LHHS 469-593-1061
- Terry Berrier** Assoc. Dir., LHHS 469-593-1063
- Kari Gilbertson** Director, FMJH 469-593-1547
- Carisa Niemeyer** Asst. Dir. FMJH 469-593-1574
- Renee Wilson** Director, LHJH 469-593-1629
- Heather Sharp** Director, LHFC 469-593-1351



**Look for us on the Web!**

The LHHS Choirs have their own website! Visit us at [www.lhhschoir.org](http://www.lhhschoir.org). Thanks to Bruce Dankberg for updating our choir web page. It looks great - check it out to see what is new in the LH choir program!



**Lake Highlands Area  
 Holiday Choir Concerts**

LHHS	Dec. 5, 7:30 pm
LHJH	Dec. 6, 7:30 pm
FMJH	Dec. 7, 7:30 pm
LHFC	Dec. 8, 7:30 pm

## CHOIR GARAGE SALE

Save the date!!!!  
 Saturday, January 28, 2012  
 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 LHHS Cafeteria

Please save your new and gently used items you'd like to donate. And just for the next few months, please think of us before calling the Salvation Army, Leukemia Society, etc. We are a very worthy cause!!!

And please think about volunteering. We could use all the help we can get.

Thanks,  
 Jean Bono  
[jkbono@prodigy.net](mailto:jkbono@prodigy.net)

Susan Burroughs  
[susan@dburroughs.com](mailto:susan@dburroughs.com)

Gia Foley  
[giafoley@tx.rr.com](mailto:giafoley@tx.rr.com)

Tonda Howard  
[davidlhoward@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidlhoward@sbcglobal.net)

## Lake Highlands High School Choir News

**From Mr. O'Hern...**

### **Homecoming 2011:**

The A Cappella Choir hosted the annual reception for their alumni, teachers and friends on Friday afternoon, October 7th in the LHHS Choir Room. It was such a special event in our choir year, and we love to see all of our alumni come back and sing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" with A Cappella, directed by Mr. O'Hern. A special thank you goes to Linda Gavigan & Jill Mellinger for chairing the Homecoming Committee, and we deeply appreciate all of the parents who brought food for the event.

### **Fall Concert**

We would like to congratulate the nine choirs and directors from our four area schools on the wonderful performance we were able to enjoy on Monday night, October 3rd in the LHHS auditorium. The over 450 voice patriotic finale, *God Bless America*, was a spectacular close to a wonderful evening. This annual Fall Concert gives our parents and the community a chance to see and appreciate the musical education and accomplishments of our students, while our choirs see and appreciate where they've been as well as where they are going musically. We are so proud of our singers in the Lake Highlands area, and it is a pleasure to showcase these talents! We as directors were so proud of our students, both on and off the stage.

### **Region Choir**

9-12 All-Region Choir Auditions were held on October 11th and October 15th. The Lake Highlands area had an amazing showing with 21 students selected, and 19 of them coming from LHHS.

The following students will be advancing to the next round of All State auditions, and sang in the Region Mixed Choir:

Shane Bono  
Jordan Chumbley  
Jake Gaba  
Siobhan Kelley  
Mary Ellen Kidd  
Susan Duncan  
Julia Dankberg  
Blake Lueder  
Patrick Mahurin  
Brice Paterik  
Parker Starr  
Chris Truong  
Spencer Wood

Also singing with the Region Mixed Choir were:

Stephen Duncan and  
Nick Jones

The Region Treble Choir places were held by:

Kelly Burroughs  
Kelsey Hohnstein  
Hannah Willard



**All-Region Singers 2011**

The All Region Choir performed a wonderful concert at Richardson High School at 5:00 p.m. on November 5th. **Congratulations to all of these fine musicians! You represented Lake Highlands very well!**

## Lake Highlands High School Choir News

### **Fundraising**

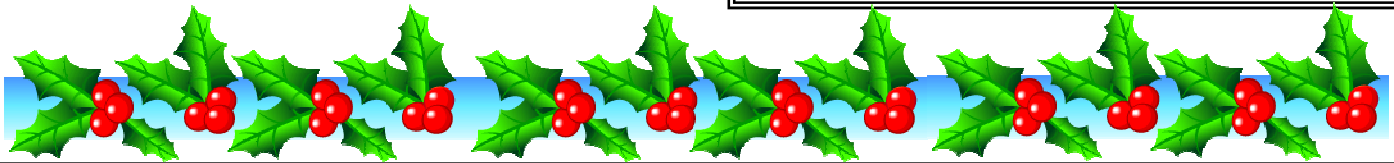
If this is a dirty word around your house, you'll be glad to hear that we have almost completed all of our fund raising efforts for the 2011-2012 school year. Our annual poinsettia sale is complete, (plants to be delivered on Wednesday, November 30th), and we owe appreciation to Brenda Gaba, Glenda Gerteisen, Karen Hohnstein, and Beth Truong for taking on that big job. We followed this sale right on the heels of the Cheese-cake/Cookie Dough sale just in time for the holidays. Thanks to Lauri Lueder and Susan Starr who headed up this activity. We thank you for your continued support of our students and our choral music programs.

### **Hoarding, Anyone?**

If you don't want to be considered for the TV show "Hoarders", clean out those closets and garages and donate those items to the LHHS Choir Garage Sale! We have pick up service available, if needed. Proceeds go to defray the cost of the Florida trip. For more information, call Jean Bono at 214-340-0873, Susan Burroughs at 214-503-7407, Gia Foley at 972-978-7558, or Tonda Howard at 214-770-1650.

### **LHHS Dates to Remember**

Nov. 30	Poinsettias delivered, LHHS Cafeteria
Dec. 1	All Choir Caroling & Banquet— Doctors Nursing Center & Ascension Episcopal Church
Dec. 5;7:30 pm	Holiday Concert—LHHS
Jan. 10	All State Auditions— Texas A&M Commerce
Mar. 2 & 3	Espre Show— Rockin' the Paradise; LHHS



### **ESPREE**

Espree is excited to be leaving the state of Texas over the holidays to ski and perform. Always a fun trip, we will be going to Keystone, Colorado, December 16-19, 2011. In the meantime, the group has several holiday performances scheduled in the Dallas area. Be sure to mark March 2 & 3 on your calendar for this year's Espree show, "**Rockin' the Paradise**". If you need entertainment for your next church, civic, or social function, call Espree in the Lake Highlands High School Choir Room: 469-593-1061. The group has already performed this fall, and we welcome the opportunity to share our music with you!

#### **Upcoming Espree performances:**

December 5	7:30 pm	Choir Concert (LHHS)
December 7	7:00 am	MLS Realtors breakfast
December 9	11:30 am	Medical City
December 9	3:30 pm	Northpark
December 9	5:30 pm	Bristol at Buckingham
December 16-19	afternoon	Keystone, Colorado
January 31	7:00 pm	Nancy White Customer Appreciation Dinner
March 2 & 3	7:30 pm	"Rockin' the Paradise" Espree Show

## Lake Highlands High School Choir News

### **What's Ahead!!!!!!**

#### **Holiday Banquet**

All of our LHHS choir members are invited to our annual Holiday Banquet and Caroling party on Thursday, December 1st. The students will first meet at Doctors Nursing Center for caroling and then proceed to Episcopal Church of the Ascension on Greenville Ave. for fun, food and fellowship. The cost of the banquet is \$10.00 and a pair of socks for the Richardson Clothes Closet. Members of the choirs will exchange gag gifts, and Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves will be in attendance! Thanks to Anne Dankberg & Becky Paterik for planning and organizing this event. Money for the banquet can be turned in to Mr. O'Hern's office now. Don't miss it!

#### **Holiday Concert**

Get in the Holiday spirit at our annual Holiday Concert, Monday evening, December 7th at 7:30 in the LHHS auditorium. All of the LHHS choirs, Espree and the Parents choir will perform. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear holiday music from around the world!

#### **Calling All Parents! Join the Parents Choir!**

If you are the parent of a choir student in one of the High School or Freshman Center Choirs, we urge you to be a part of our annual LHHS Parents Choir! This group of volunteers meets for three rehearsals and then performs at the LHHS Holiday Concert in the LHHS auditorium on Monday evening, December 5th.

**Sound like fun?** It was for 40+ moms and dads last year, so even if you've never sung outside the privacy of your own shower, come join in the fun and fellowship. Put these dates on your calendar and join us in the LHHS Choir Room. If you can't make all the rehearsals or have to come late and leave early, we can work around your holiday schedule! **It is worth your time!**

#### **Parents Choir rehearsals are:**

<b>Sunday, Nov. 20</b>	<b>2:00-3:30</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov. 27</b>	<b>2:00-3:30</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 4</b>	<b>2:00-3:30</b>
<b>Monday, Dec. 5</b>	<b>Concert (Warm up at 7:10 in the choir room.)</b>

**Please join us!**

## TCDA Middle School Honor Choir News

This past summer, five students from Forest Meadow auditioned and were selected to participate in the Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA) Middle School Honor Choir. They were selected from well over 700 audition CD's that were submitted. There are nine singers from RISD in the choir, and five of them are from FMJH!

They spent 2.5 days in San Antonio rehearsing and having fun. This all culminates with a final concert for over 1,000 choral directors from all over the state.

Thanks for your support of all things choir. A huge percentage of kids who sing in this MS/JH choir, go on to try out and make the TMEA All State Choir during their high school years, but they will all remember their time in the TCDA middle school "all state" choir. Their work was even featured on an episode of "Good Kids" on our local NBC station.

Congratulations to: Will Aman, Andie Anthony, Elizabeth Burroughs, Lauren Frank, and Vincent Leal



# Lake Highlands Freshman Center Choir News

## Region Choir

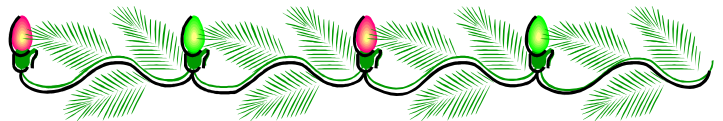
The LHFC Choir program was well-represented at this year's All-Region Choir auditions. We had several students who took the long journey of preparing music (in English, German & Latin) and practicing their solo sight-reading skills. As the kids will tell you – just getting through the German was a great accomplishment! We are thrilled to share that LHFC had two students who earned spots in these prestigious choirs. **Elizabeth Burroughs** earned a place in the All-Region Treble Choir, and **Emily Hughes** earned a place in the All Region Mixed Choir. It takes a lot of time and hard work to prepare to audition for these choirs, and we're so proud of all who auditioned! Congratulations to Emily & Elizabeth!



CenterStage! 2011-2012



Lunch Break for the 2011 LHHS/FC All-Region Girls



## LHFC Parents Sing!

LHFC parents have been invited to sing with LHHS parents in the Parents Choir. All singers are welcome, regardless of your level of singing expertise. This is a great way to get to know the directors at LHHS, and it is a fun opportunity to sing holiday music under great direction. The Parents Choir will make their debut at the LHHS Holiday Concert on Monday, December 5th.

## Holiday Concert

The LHFC Holiday Concert will take place on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the LHFC Auditorium. Put this date on your calendar before December fills up! We hope you'll come and enjoy performances from CenterStage, Combined Women's Choir, Combined Men's Choir and Chorale.

All rehearsals will take place in the LHHS Choir Room. The rehearsal schedule can be found in the LHHS section of this newsletter.

## CenterStage!

CenterStage! enjoyed our first two performances in October: Market in the Meadow and the LHFC Community Pep Rally. We're looking forward to performing at Medical City, The Shops at Willow Bend and more during our holiday tour on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Our final performance of the semester will be at the LHFC Holiday Concert on December 8<sup>th</sup>.



Beth Erschen singing "Do You Believe in Magic?"



CenterStage! – LHFC Community Pep Rally



CenterStage! guys sing, "Love Potion No. 9"

# Lake Highlands Junior High Choir News

## Holiday Concert



The Holiday Season is fast approaching! The Lake Highlands Junior High Choirs' Annual Holiday Concert will be on **December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.** in the LHJH Auditorium. All of the choirs will participate along with the pop group Limited Edition. The students have had a

successful first semester, and we are looking forward to sharing our hard work with you at the concert! A cookie and punch reception will follow the concert in the foyer. We will need volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and donating cookies.

## RISD Vocal Music Festival

Congratulations to the 60 LHJH students who participated in the RISD Vocal Music Festival on Saturday, November 12!!! We had a fantastic and very successful day. All of our ensembles received a superior rating and all of our soloists received superior and excellent ratings. In addition to these outstanding scores we also had four special awards. Our afternoon varsity treble ensemble and our varsity tenor bass ensemble were each named outstanding ensemble of the day by their judges, and 7th grader Peyton Robinson and 8th grader Kenton Wilhelm were selected as outstanding soloists. Way to go!! I am so proud of the

LHJH students. All of their hard work and preparation paid off.

## Limited Edition

Limited Edition will soon be on tour in the Lake Highlands Area. They will perform at each of the Lake Highlands Area elementary schools and several retirement homes in the area. The tour is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will be performing classics like "Winter Wonderland" and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." If you would like Limited Edition to sing for your group or organization, please call Renee Wilson at 469-593-1629 or email at [renee.wilson@risd.org](mailto:renee.wilson@risd.org).

## All-Region Choir

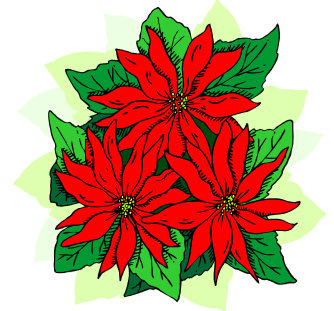
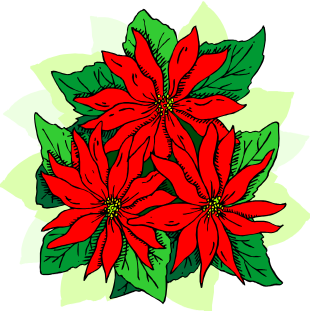
TMEA Region 3 All-Region Choir auditions are fast approaching! All-Region Choir is an honor choir composed of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade singers from all over the region. Hundreds of students audition for the honor of being in the Region Choir. Last year, Lake Highlands had five members in the choir. This year we hope to expand our success. LHJH region auditionees will be selected in December for the opportunity to audition for 7/8 Region on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The first all-region rehearsal will be February 14<sup>th</sup> and the Clinic/Concert will be Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.



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## LHJH Dates to Remember

<b>December 2</b>	Limited Edition Tour
<b>December 6; 7:30 pm</b>	Holiday Concert, LHJH
<b>January 29</b>	All-Region Auditions
<b>Tues. Feb 15 - 5:30-8:00 pm</b>	All-Region Pre-Rehearsal
<b>Sat. Feb. 26 9 am-4 pm/5 pm</b>	All-Region Clinic/Concert



# Forest Meadow Junior High Choir News

## FMJH Holiday Concert

Wednesday, December 7th at 7:30 PM

Lake Highlands Freshman Center Performance Hall

The choirs are working hard, and we are anticipating a great evening of holiday music on **Wednesday, December 7th at 7:30 p.m.** at the Lake Highlands Freshman Center.

Parents, please make sure that your students have their uniform and shoes ready for this concert. Information has been sent home, regarding what is required for each choir. Thanks for your assistance.

## Sound Express News



2011-2012 Sound Express

**Sound Express** had their first performance at Market in the Meadow, and we look forward to touring the following elementary schools and locations December 1st and 2nd. (Other times and locations will be added as they are scheduled.)

### Sound Express Tour 2011

Dec. 1	Dec. 2
8:15 am Aikin	8:15 am Merriman Park
9:30am Stults Road	9:15 am Forest Lane
10:30 am Scofield Church	11:00 am Medical City
1:00 pm Moss Haven	Noon Holiday Exchange
	3:00 pm NorthPark Mall



**Thank you** to all the participants and donors in our successful Fall Fundraising Project and Patron Donations at Forest Meadow. Our choirs have never been larger at FMJH, and these projects are vital to the ongoing work. This year, our goals are to support our music making with purchasing more uniforms and paying entry fees for students who could not otherwise participate in lessons and contests. Special thanks to the entire army of volunteers who assist us with Sound Express, Uniforms, Fundraising, Carpools, Solo/Ensemble, etc.

It really does make a difference in the lives of your kids! Thank You!!!! If you would like to volunteer for FMJH choirs, please contact our Volunteer Coordinators, Carrie Patton and Wendi Murray.

## Did You Know?

Many FMJH Choir class announcements and materials are available on the FMJH Choirs edline page and on our Charms music page. There are handouts, assignments, links, even songs to learn and practice. Log in and check us out at [www.edline.risd.org](http://www.edline.risd.org) or at [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) and our Facebook Group at "Forest Meadow JH Choirs"



**Notes from the Meadow:** "Well Done!" to all of the singers from FMJH who participated in the RISD Solo and Ensemble Vocal Music Festival on Saturday, November 12 at Richardson North Junior High School. Forest Meadow had a great day of success!! We were very pleased that the solos and ensembles received very fine ratings that day.

**Forest Meadow** had over 90 students participate in almost 40 different events. **The following students performed solos and received Superior Ratings:** Sarah Bowen, Peyton Brown, Catherine Bryant, Rachel Burroughs, Caroline Combs, Lauren Edwards, Kelli Fletcher, Mark Garwood, Tony Harrison, Daniel Kidd, Elizabeth Lara, Madison Lewis, Emily Luedke, Bobby Mahurin, Laney Norris, Miracle Ogbonna, Christopher Polito, Natalie Regan, Sasha Roppolo, Kevon Terrell, Jordan Traylor, Ashley Turnipseed, Ugochi Uche, Mackenzi Ward. **In addition, the following students received ratings of Excellent:** Ruth Freeman, Alan Selzer, and Phil Wittel. In addition, all four FMJH Ensembles received **First Division Superior Ratings:** Bel Canto Girls AM Ensemble, Chorale Varsity Girls Ensemble, Chorale Mixed Ensemble, and the Varsity Men's Ensemble.

Adding to our success, Forest Meadow was especially pleased to have a **record 11 nominations for Outstanding Soloist and Ensembles.** (This is a special distinction and honor given very selectively by the judges.) This year's nominees included: Sarah Bowen, Rachel Burroughs, Mark Garwood, Tony Harrison, Elizabeth Lara, Madison Lewis, Bobby Mahurin, Miracle Ogbonna, Natalie Regan, "Doogie Boys", and the Das Echo ensemble.

From those nominations, the judges choose an "**Outstanding Award.**" A huge "**congratulations**" for being named the **Outstanding Soloist in their judging rooms** goes to Rachel Burroughs, Mark Garwood, Tony Harrison, Bobby Mahurin, Natalie Regan, and the "Doogie Boys" ensemble.

## All-Region Auditions

Auditions for the 7/8 All-Region Honor Choir will be January 28, 2012 at Schrade Middle School in Garland. Pre-Auditions will happen at each Junior High in the next few weeks to select the most prepared singers to go to the region audition in January. Last year we had 8 singers make the choir and we expect to have many of our talented singers participating. The Pre-Rehearsal evening will be February 14th at Kimbrough MS and the Clinic and Concert will be Saturday, February 25, 2012.

## President's Message

Happy Holidays Lake Highlands Area Choir Families!

The holiday season is fast approaching, and one of the best ways to celebrate the holidays is by attending one of our Lake Highlands Area Choirs Holiday concert. I hope that you plan to attend at least one holiday concert and bring your family and friends!

I want to thank the many volunteers who have been hard at work with all the fundraising that has been going on at all the schools. Your willingness to help with this endeavor is greatly appreciated. However, the fundraising is not over yet. Please remember to save all of your extra "stuff" for the LHACBC garage sale coming up in January. Ask your friends and family if they have anything to donate and then stop by the LHHS cafeteria on January 28 to show your support.

Best wishes to you and your family during the coming New Year!

Becky Ford, LHACBC President



Lake Highlands Area Choirs  
c/o Lake Highlands High School  
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Dallas, TX 75238 002

"Choir Notes" is a publication of The Lake Highlands Area Choir Booster Club, an organization of parents and others who wish to support the outstanding choral music program at Lake Highlands High School, Lake Highlands Freshman Center, Forest Meadow Junior High and Lake Highlands Junior High in the Richardson Independent School District.



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