

Hey guys,

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> e-mail update for the 2009-2010 winter season. A lot is already going on this early, and I'm thoroughly excited!

Concerning the audition process, it is officially over. The staff has had time to discuss and determine where each person will be able to fit in the ensemble. This doesn't mean that we can't use anyone else if they wanted a spot, but they wouldn't have an opportunity to try out for something they'd want. As of now, we're looking at a total of 22 members, although we are waiting to hear back from two other potential participants.

I can say that concluding the process was quite exhilarating. We had an opportunity to have the entire battery warming up together, and you could tell by the look on each student's face how excited they were about this season. This really will be a great season.

For design, I'll be picking up the floor mat this week. I'm also in the process of communicating with Andrew Markworth to determine how many parts we need written for our front ensemble book. We have James Sparling coming in Tuesday (11/24) for a camp, and we have another camp scheduled for 12/11-12/12 with our battery guy, Nick Angelis. There's a lot going on behind the scenes!

While we have a lot going on, and we have a lot of students excited about this season, there are still a couple of speed bumps that I need to address. The first one is prioritizing.

We've had a couple of students miss some rehearsals because of questionable reasons. There are certain things that I will always place above drum line (family, education, church, etc), but there are also many things that fall below this activity. There is so much that can't thoroughly be done if we are missing two or three out of the ensemble, and if we want to be competitive this season, we need to begin prioritizing things. After all, the students that miss aren't letting me down. They are letting down their peers and themselves. For students, please make it a point to be at every rehearsal. For parents, please schedule things around the percussion schedule as much as possible, and please make it a point to reaffirm this concept with each student.

The second obstacle, and the obstacle we'll face all season, is fundraising. A group of two parents and nine students did fundraising last Saturday. We started with 16 boxes of candy, and we set up booths in front of several businesses around Corydon and New Salisbury. We ended up selling almost 500 candy bars in just about five hours (which is around 10 boxes)! This was a huge accomplishment, and I want to thank each person that participated (Rhonda Benz, Elyse Hensley, Lindsay Baker, Christina Johnson, Jessica Benz, Katy Kinslow, Jonathan East, Tim Clemans, Kelsey Hensley, Audrey Hensley, and Devon Clifton). Last Saturday was a huge thing, and I'm glad you all worked so hard; it will pay off!

We'll be passing out paperwork on Tuesday for students to take home. This will explain the advertisement process in detail. Advertisement sales will begin immediately, and we'll need to receive all of the payments by the beginning of January. These sales will be paramount to our fundraising being

a success this season. Again, I know I'm asking a lot, but this is what this program demands for us to reach our goals for the season. Don't give up on it!

I think that covers just about everything. For anyone who still needs to know, an updated schedule has been put on the web site. The things that have changed include the camp this Tuesday with James (we will be rehearsing from 3:30 – 8:30). We also added in the camps with Nick Angelis. We will be going from 6-9 on 12/11, and from 9-5 on 12/12. We also have a rehearsal removed on 12/21, and one added on 12/22 (from 6-9).

Let me know if you have any questions, and I'll do my best to answer it in a timely fashion.

Thanks so much for all of your hard work and your support! This program wouldn't be possible without you!

-Jeremy

P.S. For clarification, I understand scheduling conflicts when the event or thing was scheduled prior to the drum line schedule. In certain circumstances, I would still hope that the students will prioritize the drum line rehearsal on top. An example would be a church cookout, or a family get-together, things of that nature. We're all in this together, and it's only fair that we all pull our own weight.