

Hey all,

We've had another eventful couple of weeks, but this will be brief for the most part.

Firstly, we obviously had some issues with snow this past week. It should give students an accurate idea as to how much that can kill momentum, and how we need to be ready to adapt to make up for lost time. Unfortunately, we really didn't get to make up the time this week, but for future reference, we will do everything we can to make up for lost rehearsal time. It's crucial that we keep the momentum up!

There are a couple changes made to the schedule that need to be noted. We've tweaked the time that clinician Jon Corson will be spending with us. He'll be coming down for a couple days in early January. We have extended those rehearsals by an hour. I know it's finals week, due to snow issues this past week, but our clinician didn't have any other dates open to him. We simply need to do the best we can.

Over the past two weeks, we've accomplished a significant amount during rehearsals. We have the first two movements on the floor. This is unheard of in any of my experience with teaching percussion. No program, to my knowledge, has ever had that much accomplished so early in the season. We're hoping to have the final movement on the floor before the end of this month. We won't be too far behind that musically. I expect us to have the first two movements completed before extended rehearsals end in January. We're making great time in terms of getting the show on the floor and learning the music.

The one thing that must take place for the season to continue is our fundraising efforts. I am very thankful for those students that are going out and doing the work. A few students have been extremely successful in raising money; which convinces me that all the other students are just as capable. We have to pay out a significant amount of money over the next couple of weeks, and especially throughout the month of January. The season *will fold* if we can't take care of these debts. We have to keep pushing. As I told the students today; we've done a tremendous job in rehearsal taking care of business. It is now time to take care of business outside of rehearsal by making sure we can pay all of the staff for teaching, and for writing a wonderful show.

It *has* to happen.

I look forward tremendously to the next couple weeks. Students: Enjoy your break. I know things have been busy. Take advantage of the time off. We only rehearse four days throughout break; we have to make the most of them.

Other than that, I hope that everyone has a very enjoyable and relaxing Christmas. Make sure to let me know if any questions come up.

This season is turning out to be something very special, and I'm thankful for everyone that is participating to make this a success.

-Jeremy