

# Noise . . .

## ...from the cheap seats

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD-CARLISLE PATRONS OF PERFORMING STUDENTS  
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### From: the Prez Some Semi-Superheroes!

*by Erika Shaefer, '08*

**C**an you believe the first quarter is over? Time sure flies when you are having fun. It also flies when you are very, very busy!

We started right off the bat with the 3x3x3 Theater Festival. What a great way for a lot of involvement right away. It was fun moving from venue to venue seeing three very different performances.

The last few weeks have brought us three concerts. I attended all three and enjoyed each one for a different reason. The orchestra concert brought an hour of calmness that I hadn't felt in awhile. The chorus concert was my chance to feel very proud. Philip or Rachel was on stage all night. What more can a parent want? And then the band concert showed me I really can identify music: I know a Sousa march when I hear one.

Thanks to all involved with these concerts. In previous years I've only gone to the chorus concerts because that's where

*From the Prez*

*continued on page 2*



*The League of Semi-Superheroes in rehearsal. Cast members shown are Amanda Cadell '09, Adam Johnson '08, Sean Dwyer '08, Ted Alexander-Gill '08; not shown are Vivienne Carrette '08 and Kati Miller '10.*

**T**he 3x3x3 was a totally different type of show, different from all past shows CCHS has presented. The format of three shows performing simultaneously in combination with the rotating audiences was crazy – in a good way. I was elated when I heard that I would be directing one of the two 10 minute plays. I was especially happy to hear that I would be directing a play about semi-superheroes. It was an excellent choice for me with all my energy and willingness to be crazy and go all out when it comes to acting and directing; it was exactly what the play called for.

As we got into rehearsals toward the end of summer a few funny things happened. First, Mr. Kendall said that I had to put one of the guys in tights, which I completely agreed with (thank you Adam Johnson '08 for being so awesome about that.) Secondly, on the next day I went up to Mr. Kendall and told him how much more I understood what he does for us and how I respect him for it. I knew it was the director's job to "look at the whole picture of the show" but I didn't fully understand that I had to *act* while being the director. I had to act like a know-it-all. I had to know everything about my show, even when I didn't have the right answer I still had to have one. This usually wasn't a big issue; I could almost always give an answer that was satisfactory.

After reading the script a good number of times (26 seemed to be a good number), I formed a pretty strong outline for what I wanted. At the end, the performances of my play also fell along the lines of what I wanted. During the performances I had another "epiphany" and understood that there was no such thing as a perfect show, there is always something that could be better. I kind of knew that there is no such thing as

*Some Semi-Superheroes*

*continued on page 2*

#### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Letter from the Prez</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Some Semi-Superheros</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Dance News</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Crazy for You Auditions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>CCPOPS Calendar</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Drama News</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>News from the Band Room</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Chorus News</b> .....	<b>5</b>



# Dance Club News

This fall, the Dance Club has been focused on rhythmic dance. The school year started with an exuberant West African Workshop conducted by Alice Heller with live drumming. Thirty five students participated and, as in last year's workshop, by the end of the 90 minute workshop, the students were engaged, uninhibited, and joyful. It's a wonderful way to start the Dance Club season.

Since then, CCPOPS and Dance Club have been offering a series of tap workshops taught by Becky Robichaud, a professional tap teacher from the Dance Inn. Becky performed with the Rockettes, and she has choreographed *42nd Street* and *Crazy for You* for the Reagle Players. We are very fortunate to have her as a teacher. There are three workshops left in the program, November 16th at the Emerson Umbrella, November 30th in the Little Theatre, and December 7th in the Auditorium. The December 7th workshop may occur earlier in the week due to *Crazy for You* auditions: check <ccpops.org> to confirm.

We have scheduled a hip/hop workshop on December 14th, but we may move hip/hop to March due to conflicts with *Crazy for You* auditions. Instead I may teach the students a lyrical/soul dance, have a small holiday celebration, and talk about the spring schedule. Please check <ccpops.org> for updates.

Finally, the Dance Club will take a short hiatus during *Crazy for You* production time, since the auditorium will be in full use. I have submitted a grant to the PA for several salsa workshops for the spring. The students will do a fundraiser to help supplement these workshops. Carly Dwyer, our new Dance Club advisor, and I will discuss the possibility of a low-key cabaret style performance in the spring, perhaps in conjunction with some other performing groups at the high school.

Please encourage your students to come to Dance Club. Workshop dates and locations are listed at <ccpops.org>; our co-presidents are Lisa Yanofsky '08 and Anna Liebich '08; Dance Club meets at 2:30 on Fridays.

Susanne Liebich  
Dance Club Parent Liaison



## Auditions

The audition dates are **Dec 10-14** and **Dec 17-18** from 2:30-5:30. Auditions will consist of a vocal and dance audition for all interested. Audition packets and sign-up time sheets will be available starting Thanksgiving week.

Additional information is posted on the bulletin board outside of the chorus room, I-6.

Print, cut and put on your fridge

## CCPOPS CALENDAR QUICK TAKES

Thurs. Nov 22	Pep Band @Football Game @Home vs. Bedford	Fri. Dec. 21	Holiday Concert Assembly
Fri. Nov. 30	Dance Club 2:30 - 4pm Little Theater Mini Musical – <i>Animal Crackers</i> 7:30pm CCHS Auditorium	Tues. Jan. 8	Chorus Dress Rehearsal #1
Sat. Dec. 1	Mini Musical – <i>Animal Crackers</i> 7:30pm CCHS Auditorium	Mon. Jan. 14	CCPOPS General Membership Meeting 7:30PM Little Theater
Sun. Dec 2	Mini Musical – <i>Animal Crackers</i> 2:30pm CCHS Auditorium	Tues. Jan. 15	Chorus Dress Rehearsal #2
Fri. Dec. 7	Dance Club 2:30 - 4pm Auditorium	Weds. Jan. 16	Chorus & Orchestra Concert
Fri. Dec. 14	Dance Club	Sat. Feb. 2	Battle of the Bands WIQH
Thurs. Dec. 20	Bands Holiday Concert 7:30pm CCHS Auditorium	Tues. Feb 19	Musical & Pit Orchestra Rehearsal
		Weds. Feb. 20	Musical & Pit Orchestra Rehearsal
		Thurs. Feb. 21	Musical & Pit Orchestra Rehearsal
		Fri. Feb. 22	Musical & Pit Orchestra Rehearsal

We do our best to insure accuracy, but things do change. Check our website <ccpops.org> for revisions and changes.

# Drama News

**W**e are in the midst of quite a year of theatre at CCHS. For the first time, our actors and tech crews joined athletes in returning to school in late August to start activities before classes began. Our first 3x3x3 Theatre Festival performances in mid-September got students involved with a show very early in the academic year. In fact, the students had their scripts over the summer months to study and learn their roles. We are now in the closing weeks of rehearsals for the Marx Brother's 1928 musical *Animal Crackers*, which boasts a lavish set, on stage orchestra, and two casts. The dual casting of some



3x3x3 Festival, *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*: Nora Evett '09, Chris LeVan '09, Kailey Prior '10, Celeste Hall '10, Mark Nimar '10, Rebecca Montgomery '08, Ben Lovy '10, Rachel Dumka '10, Katie Innamorati '10 and Danielle Judson '08. Not shown: Ian Cooper '09.

roles has proven to be a rehearsal challenge, but a necessary one. This is the show we will perform in August 2008 at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, so we needed duplicate roles for the "Edinburgh only" actors. It is better to rehearse in November with the Edinburgh cast then next June as school is winding down when students need to focus on final exams. The treat for the audience now will be the opportunity to see *Animal Crackers* with each of these casts – the Friday and Saturday performances will feature one cast, while the Sunday matinee will feature the other cast. This is also a rare opportunity for some of our students to be on stage and act opposite different actors at different performances, not as simple a feat as it may seem.

*Crazy For You*, our big musical for March 2008, will be filled with beautiful Gershwin music and the sound of tap shoes. Auditions for that show will be one week after *Animal Crackers* closes (see notice on page 4 for exact dates and times). We're busy, busy, busy! The weekend before *Crazy For You* opens, CCHS will be placing our first entry into the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival. *The Actor's Nightmare*, the one act selection directed by Ben Kendall from the 3x3x3, will be our entry. Next May, our "bar-



3x3x3 Festival, *The Actor's Nightmare*: Olivia Zubrowski '10, Torie Burmeister '10, James Weaver '09, Nicole Guild '08 and David Dawson '08.

dolators" will perform Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in the auditorium where the set will flow from the main stage onto the thrust stage we erect in the pit. Throughout the year, the new CCHS Improv Drama Club is holding meetings, involving students who can't seem to get enough stage activity. We won't stop even when school concludes, as brush-up rehearsals for *Animal Crackers* will take place in late July and early August, followed by a farewell open dress before the two weeks in London and Edinburgh. Whew!

The expanded academic theatre program's new classes are off to a great start as well. The "Stage Design and Technology" class had to turn students away due to over enrollment. The class has been involved a great deal with the set construction for *Animal Crackers* and will also be involved with *Crazy For You* until the end of the second quarter when the class ends. Ned Roos, the official tech advisor for the shows, has been a great help in the classroom. At times, we've split the class into multiple working groups, one in the wood shop and one in the auditorium – this could not have happened without Ned (three cheers for Ned!) The "Shakespeare From Page to Stage" class, which begins in quarter three, is almost fully enrolled. That class will be studying Shakespeare's plays primarily from the actor's and stage perspectives, versus the literary. There are new classes planned for introduction in 2008-09 as well -- stay tuned for details on these classes after they are officially approved.

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CCHS is a very special place. I am fortunate to be the caretaker of a performing arts program that has enjoyed a tradition of excellence for many years. Thank you for letting me do the job I so love to do. Brenda Finn has been incredibly supportive, bringing Art Dulong's vision of an academic drama and theatre arts curriculum into reality. Peter Badalement continues to guide and nurture theatre and all performing arts here. During the past two and a half years, first as 50% time faculty and now as 75% faculty, I feel I've been able to reach students in the classroom beyond when directing shows. A great deal has been accomplished in the academic side of this program, but there is more that can be done. Theatre classes may not carry the same scholastic weight of MCAS subjects, but theatre students receive benefits that help them in other classes and beyond. Exposure to life lessons, such as how to speak in front of a group, goes a long way in building confidence and self worth. This community, more than most, understands the value of a more complete education that extends beyond language, mathematics, and the sciences.

We aren't able to create and maintain a program like this without the help of dedicated parents like you. The CCPOPS organization, led by Prisl Dumka (three cheers for Prisl!), gives huge amounts of their time and energy. Kudos to you for all that you do!

Enjoy the shows, enjoy the holidays, and enjoy your children's vast talents as they share them with the community.

Oh yes, the best is yet to come...

*George Kendall*  
CCHS Theatre and Drama teacher

## News from the Band Room

This year the CCHS Bands are bigger and better than ever. The Repertory Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band "A" all performed in a wonderful concert on November 6. Mr. Dentino sends his congratulations to everyone who participated.

The Repertory Band has 100 musicians – the most ever. It has been divided into two sections that meet during the same block. Mr. Dentino and Mr. Knopf share conducting duties so that both sections get a turn with each of them. They play the same music and come together for concerts and pre-concert rehearsals. The Concert Band has one section of 84 students.

Jazz Band "A" is working on a newly commissioned piece, "A Chicago Retrospective." Peter Hazzard (who did an arrangement of music from *Les Mis* for Concert Band last year) has arranged five tunes from the early albums of the rock band Chicago into a single piece. It will premier at the Bands Holiday Concert on December 20.

The Pep Band, with a record 106 members, gave their first performance on the second day of school in September at the first Friday night football game. They have played at all home football games and recently traveled to Lincoln-Sudbury High School to play at an away game. Of course the Pep Band will be playing at the Thanksgiving game against Bedford. All Pep Band Alumni are invited to join the Band for breakfast in the Band Room at 8 a.m. and to play with the Pep Band during the game.

Speaking of records, the creation of the new Eastern District has removed most limits on how many students may audition for the Senior District Band, Orchestra and Chorus so a record 72 CCHS student musicians (46 from the Bands) have signed up to audition on November 17. The students must prepare a specified piece of music and scales for the audition. They each get a critique from their adjudicator. It is a worthwhile experience whether or not they are accepted into Senior District.

The Taiko drumming class that started last year is continuing this year with more students and a lower cost for each lesson. It is open to adults and middle school students in addition to high school students. See Mr. Dentino if you are interested and see [www.ace.colonial.net](http://www.ace.colonial.net) keyword Taiko for more information.

Plans for the March 28 concert at Symphony Hall with the CCHS Bands and the visiting Sapporo Shiroishi Symphonic Wind Ensemble from Japan are being finalized now and information about events and tickets will be announced in the next issue of the Noise. Until then, save the date for what promises to be a fabulous evening of music and international friendship.

*Marjorie Johnson*  
Band Parent Liaison



## Chorus News

The school year got off to a great start with the Fall Choral Concert on November 1st. The concert featured all our choral ensembles and ended with a very "Halloween-y" selection, "Double Trouble" from *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. The concert was attended by many Chorus students from the Concord Middle School and their parents. This was thanks to Isaac Brody, who organized a Chorus Pot Luck Supper which took place an hour before the concert in our Cafeteria. Many thanks to Mr. Brody and all those who attended.

Senior District Auditions were November 17th and we had 19 singers auditioning:

Evan Ames '09  
Julia Brem '11  
Nora Evett '09  
Nicole Guild '08  
Celeste Hall '10  
John Hollingsworth '08  
Hazel Kiefer '08  
Ben Marsh '10  
Emma Materne '10  
Jonathan Mayer '11  
Katya Meltaus '10  
Mark Nimar '10  
Alaina Patsos '08  
Kailey Prior '10  
Hillary Robbins '10  
Jessica Stern '08  
Alexander Tang '09  
Brandon Taylor '09  
Lisa Yanofsky '08

The annual Spirit Assembly, which takes place on the half-day before Thanksgiving, features a performance by Select Choir. Select Choir will also be making guest appearances in both the Concord and Carlisle Middle Schools' December Concerts. Preparations are currently underway for our second annual Choral Major Work performance. The Chorus will perform one of the most well-known and beloved choral pieces from the Baroque, the "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi. This year the Chorus will once again be performing with our school Orchestra and the piece will feature student soloists. The concert will take place on January 16, 2008.

*Deborah Smith*  
CCHS Choral Director

### WANTED

**CCTV would like to add a CCPOPS member to their board of directors.**

**Please contact them if you are interested  
– email [manager@concordtv.org](mailto:manager@concordtv.org) or call 978-369-5038.**

**For more details email  
[Prisl Dumka pdumka@comcast.net](mailto:Prisl.Dumka.pdumka@comcast.net)  
or Robin Cicchetti  
[rcicchetti@colonial.net](mailto:rcicchetti@colonial.net)**