



Hello WMS Choir Families!

Happy New Year from the WMS Choirs! The first semester ends this week, and second semester is filled with many wonderful opportunities for kids to showcase their growing skills through singing at a variety of formal and informal performances! This newsletter includes several very important announcements. Please read everything carefully and respond accordingly. To help confirm that you know the details, please complete this short [Google Form Newsletter Quiz](#) by this Friday, January 20th. Students & Parents/Guardians should complete the quiz together. Based on the low percentage of participation in last month's "prize" quiz (less than 50%), **this quiz *may* be graded**.

NEWSLETTER IN A NUTSHELL

Concert Clothes (ALL BLACK then T-Shirt & Blue Jeans in May)

Concert Dates (February 28 & March 2 / May 2 & 4)

SING-A-THON (Saturday, May 20th)

Scholarship Opportunities

Extra Events Featuring Select Students



CONCERT CLOTHES - BORROWING ~ KEEPING ~ DONATING

If your student was provided any concert clothes, please keep these through the concerts in February/March as we will be wearing formal attire again then. After those concerts, please return all borrowed clothes and consider donating anything that you paid for if there are no younger students in your family who will wear it in the future. This will help "pay it forward" for future students to use. If you are keeping clothes and you'd be willing to make a contribution, please let me know. Checks can be made payable to TCWCO (Traverse City West Choir Organization).

FEBRUARY/MARCH CONCERT DATES & DETAILS

6th Grade & Madrigals: Tuesday, February 28th / 7th & 8th Grade: Thursday, March 2nd

Students should arrive by 5:45 wearing **ALL BLACK** formal concert attire in Lars Hockstad Auditorium at Central Grade School. The performance will begin at 6:30 and end around 7:30.

MAY CONCERT DATES & DETAILS

7th & 8th Grade: Tuesday, May 2nd / 6th Grade & Madrigals: Thursday, May 4th

Students should arrive by 5:45 wearing their Choir T-Shirt & Blue Jeans in Lars Hockstad Auditorium at Central Grade School. The performance will begin at 6:30 and end around 7:30 or 8:00.



FIRST ANNUAL SING-A-THON - SATURDAY, MAY 20TH 🎸🎹🥁🎤

Details for this event, including exact times and locations, are still being finalized. Stay tuned for more information in January or February. It will most likely be from noon-6:00 at Lars/Central Grade with specific blocks of time during that six hours for certain grades/classes to be in attendance to perform solos, duets, trios, quartets, and other small & large ensembles, as well as a few large choir performances. Most songs will be selected by students with teacher approval happening before spring break to allow for plenty of practice time. We are hoping to provide special lighting/effects and possibly even a live band to accompany students who are ready to perform this way instead of just using a karaoke track although that will also be an option. This will be a fundraising event with opportunities for students to solicit sponsorships for family, friends, and neighbors along with some paid advertisements from local businesses to help underwrite the costs involved - we might even have a few special guest performers and food available - it's gonna be a ton of FUN!!!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

There are several opportunities for students to apply/audition for scholarship money that can be used towards private voice lessons or a choral summer camp experience. All interested students are encouraged to complete application forms well in advance of the posted deadlines. If any student needs assistance with picking out music for the auditions, they can contact me and I will help them find music. Here are the various links to the scholarship opportunities:

Music Boosters Scholarship - Deadline for applications is Friday, Jan. 27th. [Music Booster Scholarship Application](#). Auditions take place on Wednesday, February 8 @ WSHS after school.

Grand Traverse Musicale - The application for this scholarship is available now through March 17th. Please check out the website for more information. [GT Musicale Scholarship Audition Information](#)

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp - A BLFAC Representative, Tom McNaughton, will be at WMS on Thursday & Friday, February 2nd & 3rd to listen to anyone who is interested in attending BLFAC during the summer of 2023. [Online Applications](#) must be completed before auditioning. Near the end of the application, enter code 1208 when prompted. Find out more about [Scholarships for Blue Lake](#). Find out more about the [camp dates and details](#).

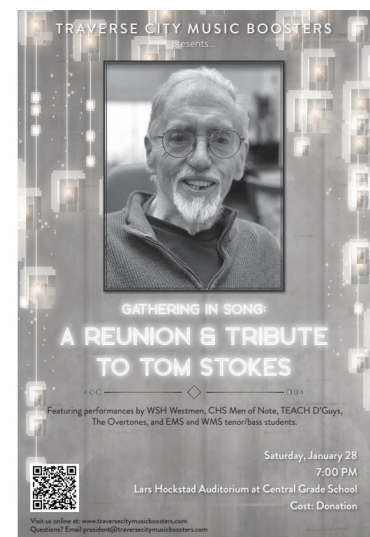
TCWCO Scholarship - The application information for this scholarship will be available on the [HS Choir Website](#). Last year the TCWCO awarded Ten \$1,000 scholarships! Don't miss this opportunity!



EXTRA EVENTS

- [Gathering in Song - A Reunion and Tribute to Tom Stokes](#) (Tenor/Bass Choir - Sat., Jan. 28th)
- Composer / Artist in Residence - Jacob Narverud (All students / Madrigals - March 6th & 9th)
- Music Booster Concert (Madrigals - Thursday, May 25th in the Central HS Gym @ 7:00)
- Possible Exchange Concert Trip for 7th & 8th Grade to the Grand Rapids Area (Details TBD)

The Traverse City Music Boosters have organized an incredible event in honor of Tom Stokes, a former choir teacher at WMS, and the man responsible for the formation of “Men of Note” which expanded into “Westmen” when West Senior HS began! He is also responsible for starting a group known as “D’Guys” as part of a home-school choir program in TC. Current and former students from all over TC and beyond are planning to unite in song on **Saturday, January 28th** at Lars Hockstad Auditorium inside Central Grade School. From Music Boosters...*Please join us for a very special evening to honor Tom Stokes, former TCAPS elementary general music and junior high choral music teacher and K-12 music coordinator who is also credited with helping establish CHS' Men of Note. Tom's impact on music and choral education in this area and beyond is immeasurable. Come and hear a fun, fitting, and heartfelt tribute. Let us gather in song for a time befitting the truly passionate, generous, and talented Tom Stokes.*



The Traverse City Choirs are very excited to welcome composer, Jacob Narverud, as a special guest artist in residence the week of March 6-10. WMS will host Mr. Narverud in the classroom on Monday afternoon, March 6th. Madrigals will be combining with the EMS Chamber Choir to perform two songs as part of a concert featuring select ensembles from all TCAPS Secondary Schools that will also include a very special WORLD PREMIERE performance of a new song commissioned by us from Mr. Narverud entitled, *Peace Flows*. Ticket information will be available soon. This concert will be in Corson Auditorium at the Interlochen Center for the Arts at **7:00 on Thursday, March 9th**.

Sincerely,

Mr. Emerick Dee



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