



Music Notes



Finneytown Music Parents' Association Newsletter

Summer 2014

Dear Music Parents and Friends,

Picture this--it was the summer of 1990: A couple with two young daughters was moving from Michigan to be closer to extended family and they stumbled upon this little community called Finneytown. Without an appointment they walked into Cottonwood Elementary where they were warmly greeted by the veteran secretary **Mrs. Merce Hershey**, who promptly dropped her school year prep work and gave this young family a welcoming tour. Immediate acceptance was offered to this family. They were encouraged to explore all that Finneytown had to offer and to offer their talents when needed.

Twenty-four years later, Finneytown continues to be a welcoming community. Finneytown is not a "take a number, wait your turn in line" kind of place. At the same time, it is a place where the village does whatever it takes to make a difference in the lives of the children and families who choose Finneytown as a place to live, grow, and be educated. Sometimes people are asked to step up, sometimes people just do what they observe needs to be done.

The Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) is a microcosm of this communal spirit. Need someone to spend a week of their busy lives to help chaperone and support the Marching Band? **Done.** Need someone to bake a casserole or flip pancakes before a long trip? **Done.** Need someone to measure students for uniforms or sew flags or make and paint props? **Done.** Need someone to help inventory music and instruments? **Done.** Need someone to write grants or organize fundraising activities so that ALL students are able to afford and pursue music-related activities? **Done.**

It is with the same welcoming and supportive arms which Finneytown welcomes our new music teachers. Assistant band director Mr. Brad Delaney, orchestra teacher Ms. Stefanie Schneider, and chorus teacher Ms. Laura Carroll have already been introduced to the kindness of our community. We look forward to their energy and expertise which will continue the strong tradition of a well-rounded education in Finneytown.

As president of FMPA, I welcome you to join our organization both physically and financially. Please don't be afraid to ask what needs to be done or make suggestions to better the programs we offer. Will **you** be the next family who feels so welcome that you commit 1 hour, 1 year or nearly 25 years of your life to making a difference in our community? I hope so!

Kevin Berlon

FMPA President

FMPA Board 2013-2014

Kevin Berlon, President

Sue Burton, Secretary

Heidi Reeb, Treasurer

Jenny Jones, VP-High School Band

Deb Amend, VP-Middle School Band

Glenda Esslinger, VP-High School Chorus

OPEN, VP-Middle School Chorus

Cindy Brown, co-VP-High School Orchestra

Jennifer Schmidt, co-VP-High School Orchestra

Tina Wuorinen, VP-Middle School Orchestra

Sandy Tenhundfeld, VP-Elementary Music

Brenda Dennis and **Glenda Esslinger**, Uniforms

Angela Murphy, Membership

Bill Fessler, Webmaster

OPEN, Newsletter/ Communication

Jennifer Schmidt, Cookie Dough Sales

Sue Burton, Luminary Kit Sales

Dan Deitsch, Bid and Buy

Cindy Rebman, School Board Representative

Finneytown Music Faculty:

Michael Kennedy, Director of Bands

Brad Delaney, Asst. Director of Bands

Stefanie Schneider, Director of Orchestras

Laura Carroll, Director of Choruses

Heidi Johnson, Whitaker Elementary General Music

Steve Jones, Brent Elementary General Music

We Want You ...

... to show your support for Finneytown's fine music program!

This year it's easier than ever to join Finneytown Music Parents' Association.

Join FMPA online!

Simply visit finneytown.org, select the "Support Organizations" tab, and choose "Finneytown Music Parents' Association" from the drop-down menu. Click on "FMPA Online Store" and follow the prompts.

After your membership is processed, you will receive an email containing the FMPA volunteer form. Please complete and return as soon as possible.

If you're unable to volunteer your time, please know that your monetary support of FMPA is just as important to our students and the continued success of Finneytown's music program.

Or, if you prefer the traditional way of joining, complete the membership form enclosed in this newsletter and send with your check to the address on the form.

As always, when you join FMPA, you also have an opportunity to volunteer your time and talents in various capacities. Whether it's chaperoning, hemming band or choral and orchestra uniforms, providing baked goods and drinks, or helping with our annual cookie dough fundraiser, or our Dinner Before the Show fundraiser, every contribution makes our music programs even more successful.

Looking forward to another memorable musical school year,

Angela Murphy
Membership



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Exciting News from Mr. David Kennedy



We have been very busy selecting candidates for the Orchestra, Choral, and Assistant Band Director positions. The interview committees, consisting of current music staff, administration, and a community member have selected the following talented individuals to be leaders in our music department. Of course Mike Kennedy was moved to Band Director from Orchestra/Assistant Band Director upon the resignation of Carl Phlipot.

The new Choral Director is...

The Finneytown Secondary is proud to announce Laura Carroll as the new vocal music teacher for grades 7-12. Laura will be re-locating back to Ohio from Maryland. She attended the University of Dayton and taught at West Carrollton High School and Fairborn Intermediate School. During that time she coached a pop a Capella group, was assistant director of the musical, and gained experience in the Kodaly process. Of course, this was in addition to her work teaching choral music. She is very passionate about choir and students being successful in singing and performing. We believe she will instantly connect with students and work hard to build the program! As she settles in, she will begin communicating with students and FMPA. Please make her feel welcome here at Finneytown.

The new Assistant Band Director is...

The new Assistant Band Director is Bradley Delaney. Bradley is coming from Orion Academy in Cincinnati where he taught general music. But that was just the beginning assignment for Bradley as he proceeded to start an after-school choir program and "bucket-drum" group to get more kids engaged in music. He also implemented Orff instruments and philosophy in this K-8 school over the past two years. Prior to his efforts at Orion, Bradley completed his student teaching at Walnut Hills High School where he worked with the beginning band, jazz band, symphonic band, marching band, and middle school bands. He has particular talent in marching and visual instruction/design. Of course this is just a brief history of experiences that make him highly qualified for this position. Bradley is a graduate of Miami University with a major in Music Education.

The new Orchestra Director is...

The new Orchestra Director is Stefanie Schneider. Stephanie is a graduate of The Ohio State University. Her student teaching was at Hilliard Schools where she worked with grades 6 - 12 in orchestra and other music areas. She taught 6th grade strings, three 7th/8th grade strings classes, and two high school orchestras. She is very talented and came highly recommended from her cooperating teachers who said, "she is one of the top student teachers we have had in a number of years". They went on to say, "she has a passion for being a music teacher, this is not a job to her." She is well verse in strings instruction, techniques, and pedagogy. We are excited to see her take the leadership role on a growing program and establish herself for the long-term.



"For the Betterment of Finneytown"

Finneytown Civic Association Sponsors:

- FCA General Meetings (April & September)
- Steve Elliott Community Service Awards
- Cash Mobs to benefit local businesses
- Candidate's Night in October

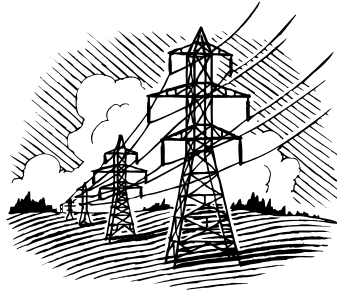
www.fcaontheweb.org



WIRED

by **Mike Kennedy**

The 2014 Marching Wildcats are well on their way to performing at their first football game on Sept. 5th.



This year's show theme is "**Wired**"! This concept is based on connectivity. Humanity is permanently wired. Work, play and rest rely on the network that connects our devices. This modernistic study cleverly brings to life the irony of freedom through connection. Electronic patches throughout flawlessly take the audience by the hand and leads them into the grid, the new hybrid of alternate and actual reality that is our daily life. Electricity and connectivity are displayed musically and visually on the field. Sounds of electricity and visions of two 12 foot towers on the field help the audience feel the connectivity of electricity.

Please come out and support the band on Sept. 5th at 7 pm!!!

Check out our band website, <https://sites.google.com/site/finneytownband22/> for more exciting news.



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Terry Owen, Proprietor Welcome Wildcats!



Used Musical Instruments

Do you have, or know of someone who has, an instrument sitting unused in a closet somewhere?

Our Music Department is seeking used instrument donations so that they can provide the opportunity for more students to participate in band or orchestra. If you can donate a woodwind, brass, percussion instrument, or stringed instrument please contact **Michael Kennedy** at mkennedy@finneytown.org.



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Band Camp 2014 - Lions Camp Crescendo

by **Jenny Jones**

On July 20th, the Finneytown Marching Wildcats returned to Lions Camp Crescendo for the second year in a row, accompanied by music staff, clinicians, volunteer chaperones and enough snacks and supplies to keep 90 hungry teenagers well fed & cared for. Thank you to all the families who donated the items necessary for a successful camp week! I would also like to extend my most heartfelt gratitude to Chris Wolferst, Leslie Gamble, Tina Wuorinen, Sandy Blais, Angela Sena and Jenny Towner for joining me on this adventure!

For those not familiar, Camp Crescendo is located in Lebanon Junction, Kentucky - situated in quiet, rolling hills & offering picturesque views. Part of Camp Crescendo's mission involves supporting music education by providing grounds and facilities for marching bands to hold their summer camps, but band camps are a means to an end for the Lions organization; the heart & soul of Camp Crescendo is about providing enriching camp experiences to special-needs children in Kentucky, regardless of their ability to pay.

Each summer, four camps are offered free of charge to children with vision and hearing impairments, children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, and for children in foster care. According to their website, in the summer of 2013, over 214 children were able to attend camp with no cost to those families.

Enamored with the scenery and humanitarian mission, Chris Wolferst & I sat down to talk with Billie Flannery, who with her husband, Ron, serves as camp administrator & a favorite grandmother figure for many of us. She may fuss at students like any grandmother would, but her passion for providing enriching experiences for disabled children is evident – and infectious!

That conversation sparked several ideas for how our students and community could pay it forward and contribute to this important mission in the future. A drive for camp related items such as pool toys, bathing suits and summer clothes could provide items needed by disabled campers; cleaning supplies and paper goods are always needed; and there are opportunities for older students to apply for camp counselor positions.

Certainly when there are difficult economic times, they affect everyone & we are not immune in our own community. Admittedly, as we struggle to secure our own funding and donation dollars, raising funds or collecting items for another organization may not be everyone's highest priority. But isn't that what paying it forward is all about?

And what a powerful lesson to teach our own children: no matter how challenging our own economic circumstances, every single person can still find something of value to give. That's what is at the heart of service – and that's among the things we do exceptionally well in Finneytown!

March On, Wildcats!



It's Almost Cookie Time Again!



by Jennifer Schmidt

FMPA will once again sponsor its popular **Savory Sweets Cookie Dough and Popcorn** fall fundraiser. This is our 10th year with this company because of the quality of their products and the variety of flavors they offer that you can't find elsewhere. People in our community have come to look forward to buying these items, making them easy to sell.

This is the BIG fundraiser of the year, generating approximately 50% of the income for FMPA's annual budget. It all goes back to the music students in the form of investments like sheet music, uniforms, contest fees, instruments, awards, scholarships, etc. Also, students will again be able to earn money for their own music education accounts if they sell over 20 items. This money can then be used for things like band camp expenses, private lessons, solo and ensemble fees, reeds, or anything related to their study of music. There will also be top-seller prizes at each school.

This year's sale will kick-off the week of **September 29th** and wrap up on **October 17th**. Product delivery will occur on **Thursday, November 20th**. Our goal is to have each student sell at least 10 items. If everyone does their part, the music teachers will be able to purchase the things needed to help students succeed in their pursuit of making the beautiful music that we all get to enjoy!

Watch for information and order forms coming home with your student the last week of September.

Mark Your Calendars For This Season's OMEA Adjudicated Events



Sept. 20
Tipp City Contest

Sept. 27
Hamilton High School

Oct. 11
Harrison Contest





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Finneytown Music Parents' Association

FMPA members volunteer time, talent and resources to support our music programs. Please indicate on the membership form the areas in which you would like to volunteer, and an FMPA board member will contact you. Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

You can contribute financially to the FMPA's budget in the following ways:

Family Membership- \$25

Family membership fees make up approximately ¼ of our annual budget.

Patron Donation

Any amount beyond the basic membership – will go towards our general budget.

FMPA Memorial Scholarship Fund

Funds are directed to student and staff music education scholarships. Please indicate in whose memory the donation is being made.

Finneytown Music Alumni Fund-\$25

Designed to recognize the alumni and parents of alumni who would like to keep assisting Finneytown music programs. Money goes towards our general budget.

*Thanks for your support! FMPA members and donors are listed in our newsletter, **Music Notes**, and in all concert programs.*

Membership Form

Information:	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
E-Mail:	
Volunteer Options:	
Concerts/Events	Fundraisers
Chaperone school concerts	Sell/assemble/distribute luminaria kits
Assist with PEM concert	Sort/distribute cookie dough
Bus chaperone	Sort/distribute Pie Peddler fundraiser
Transport Instruments	Provide baked goods or drinks
Pit crew for football games/contests	Solicit & Prepare for Bid-N-Buy
Uniforms	Set up/serve/clean up Dinner Before the Show
Assist with fittings	Business Partnerships
Distribution or Collection of uniforms	Music Notes advertising
Hemming & Alternation	Research or Write grants
Other:	Just let me know where you need help!
Donation Options:	

Family Membership	\$25.00
Patron Donation (any amount beyond the basic membership)	
FMPA Memorial Scholarship Fund	
In the name of:	
Finneytown Alumni Membership--\$25.00	
Alumni name(s)/Year of graduation:	
Checks payable to FMPA	TOTAL

Please send completed form and check to: FMPA c/o Angela Murphy 8413 Sunrise Avenue, 45231
 Questions or comments, contact Angela at: (513)522-1120 or email: a.murphy720@gmail.com

Finneytown Music Parents' Association

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To the Family of:

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

♪♪ Notes on Your Calendar ♪♪

As of August 14th (check school calendar for up to date schedule)

Aug 20	School Starts, Grades 1-6, 7,9	Oct 11	Marching Band Competition TBD
Aug 21	School Starts, Grades 8, 10, 11,12	Oct 13	FMPA Meeting 7p
Sep 5	Varsity Football (H) 7p	Oct 17	NO SCHOOL
Sep 20	Marching Band Competition TBD	Oct 17	Varsity Football (H) 7p
Sep 26	NO SCHOOL	Nov 10	FMPA Meeting 7p
Sep 26	Varsity Football (H) 7p		
Sep 27	Marching Band Competition TBD		
Oct 2	Homecoming Parade/Bonfire 6p		
Oct 3	Homecoming Game 7p		
Oct 4	Homecoming Dance 8p		

Visit FMPA online at

www.finneytownfmpa.org

Also visit the school website:

www.finneytown.org

*FMPA meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm in the Secondary Campus Teacher's Lunch room next to the cafeteria. All FMPA members are encouraged to attend.

**All school concerts at the Wm. Swartzel PAC are FREE!
So come to the concerts and support our students.**