



April 20th-22nd

Dear Fifth Grade Parents and Students,

We are excited to announce that this year's Fifth Grade Musical will be "Lion King Jr". All fifth grade students are invited to participate in this voluntary after school Musical Theater program. Mounting a large show is a lot of work, therefore we ask that parents also find a way to volunteer. There are many ways to help, both in person, and from home. We will have multiple opportunities to work together on sets, props, and costumes during weekends and/or evenings.

There are many ways students may participate – they may audition for a part on stage, or for a place on the stage crew. Only 6-8 students are needed for stage crew. Everyone who auditions for a performing part will be cast – stage crew candidates will be interviewed and chosen by the director and stage manager. Participating in a musical theater production gives students a chance to broaden their cultural horizons, grow together as a class and learn teamwork. It will boost self-confidence, coordination, poise and musical abilities. It will help us build future audience members and maybe even future performers. Last but not least, it will be lots of fun for all involved!

An activity fee of \$80 for this roughly 12-week program is due February 1st. Scholarships are available upon request.

We are very fortunate to have a fabulous team of professionals who will instruct our students. Your children already know and love Northeast music teacher Mrs. Molnar, who will serve as Musical Director. Fellow Northeast parent, Joel Fenster, will act as Director. You may have seen his work in local theaters, such as Curtain Call, New Canaan Powerhouse, The Carriage House, and Bridgeport Theatre Company. Debra MacDonald joins us this year as our Choreographer, and has an extensive background working with children. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education in addition to teaching Ballet. Music and Theatre teacher, Natasha Fenster, will serve as Producer.

Auditions: Vocal and Dance Auditions will be held after school from 3:00 to 4:30 pm on Thursday, January 5th, and Friday, January 6th. Students will be asked to sing a song that Mrs. Molnar will have taught them. Students should also be ready to learn a few dance steps. A MANDATORY meeting and Acting Audition will be held on Tuesday, January 10th. Final Cast Sheet will be posted by Thursday, January 12th.

Rehearsals and Performances: Regular rehearsals begin Tuesday, January 17th. Rehearsals will be held after school from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Students are asked to attend all three days, but must commit to at least two, for the first ten weeks.

ALL THREE DAYS BECOME MANDATORY as of Tuesday, March 28th.

*Potential Rehearsals will be offered during the week of Spring Break (April 11th-15th), these would NOT be mandatory.

**Limited bus transportation will be available during the school week to students living south of the Merritt Parkway only.

The performances will be Thursday - Saturday, April 20th-22nd.

All students will be required to submit a signed student registration form in order to participate. A copy is attached, or can be found on the website and should be sent to the PTO mailbox, attention "Fifth Grade Musical/Lion King Jr" no later than Wednesday, February 1st.

*Please note that participating in this after school program involves a significant time commitment and that attendance at rehearsals will be monitored. Your child must be in good academic standing to participate.

To find out more, visit us at northeastmusical.org,
or contact northeastmusical@gmail.com or
Natasha Fenster at 203-536-2388

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