



Cast Newsletter – Tech Week and More!! November 28, 2009

There is a lot of information covered in this.
PLEASE be sure to read everything, as there is crucial information in here!

Safety Issues – Allergies!

We are using Rita's classroom (Room 9) as our Green Room. Rita has generously let us use this space, instead of having everyone get ready in hallways or in the bathrooms.

In addition to the "No Nuts" policy that is in place at Mulberry, we need to take some extra precautions to protect the serious threat that nuts, nut oils and sesame oil pose to a student in this classroom. Even oil on the skin, passed off by touching an item, can trigger a deadly allergy attack. Your help is needed by explaining to your actor and following:

- No snacking in Room 9
- Eating needs to take place outside of Room 9. All food items will be stored in cubbies outside of the classroom.
- In addition to not packing any nut items, please check packaging of prepared snacks – don't send any items made in a plant with nuts or peanuts.
- Talk with your child about the importance of washing hands before and after snacking.

From the Production Staff:

Tech Week - Are We Really There?

Yes! Monday is the start of our first Tech Week. In keeping with our philosophy of "process not product," we are delighted to say that we are very proud of all of our actors! Everyone in this show has been working so hard, it is a joy to see how much they have progressed and are enjoying the process of theater!

What is Tech Week?

"Tech Week" is the theater term for the intense week of rehearsals before the weekend of performances.

Tech Week Rehearsals are MANDATORY!

They are important for performers and tech support staff to be able to feel comfortable on stage with the lighting, sound, sets and costumes. It is important to attend each one to know where to go safely and with confidence.

Please do not plan on picking up your child early or miss any rehearsals (unless sick). It is important to arrive on time. If you are coming from another school, have your snack on the way. We will start rehearsal promptly at 3:30.

Parents: If you have a backstage job, it is important for you to know where to go and what to do. Please be on time and ready to do your job if you are scheduled.



When is Tech Week?

Spades Cast will rehearse Nov. 30 - Dec. 3.
Clubs Cast will rehearse Dec. 7 - Dec. 10.

Each cast is invited to watch ONE dress rehearsal of the other cast:

- Clubs Cast: Wed. Dec. 2 or Thurs. Dec. 3.
- Spades Cast: Wed. Dec. 9 or Thurs. Dec. 10.

Students under 3rd grade need to have a parent or adult with them as there are no staff to watch your child. If you are not able to watch with your child, please arrange for another parent to provide supervision.

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Please let your actor know that if they are coming to watch a dress rehearsal, the expected behavior is be a respectful audience member – stay in seat, no talking, etc. If a child is unable to behave, he/she will be asked to leave or (if a Mulberry student) taken to extended care. This will allow our producers and supervisors to focus on the cast working on the production.

New for this production - everyone is invited to watch our Diamond Cast dress rehearsal on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6:30. We cannot provide supervision for children, so if you are not bringing your child, please find an adult (not in the cast) to be responsible for them. We know that 9:30 is late for many of our kids - you do not need to stay for the entire rehearsal. We just ask that if you leave to do so quietly.

When Do I Need _____ ?

On Sunday, we moved lighting, sound, and sets into the MP room and set up the extension stage (additional stage area).

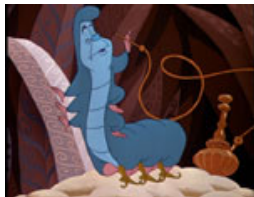
By Monday's first tech rehearsal, we will be developing lights and sound as we rehearse, moving set pieces around, and taking a look at the whole picture.

Monday and Tuesday will not be dress rehearsals so everyone can get used to the newness of the stage, sets, lighting and sound for the first time.

Wednesday and Thursday will be dress rehearsals so that the cast can get used to quick changes, etc. In addition to costumes, the cast will wear makeup and have their hair done.

Little Wonders/Diamond Casts

Please see page 4 for specifics on dates/times for rehearsals and performances.



Backstage – Tech Week and Performances

During Tech weeks and performances, our stage manager, Michelle Neff, will be in charge of the stage and backstage area.

Both the stage and backstage will be open to cast members and support staff ONLY. Please let your child know that there will be plenty of volunteers backstage to help if needed, but that you (if you're not working backstage) will be in the audience cheering them on. Thank you in advance for your help with this – backstage can get very busy, and we need everyone's help with this!

Make-Up

We have a short amount of time between call and curtain and a lot of actors to get ready!

We need parents to apply the following for dress rehearsals (Wed. and Thurs) and shows:
- basic foundation (a shade darker than skin),
- eyeliner (top & bottom of eyes, black or brown)

If your child is coming from class and you are not able to come and apply makeup, please send makeup with your child and try to arrange for another parent to apply it.

Tips & Instructions for Tech Week ***Water***

Please be sure to pack your child a water bottle to keep hydrated during the rehearsal. We suggest a "green" bottle, reusable with your child's name on it.

Snack

Please be sure to pack your child a healthy snack to get them through rehearsal. It should be non-sticky, NO NUTS, and protein if possible. Snacks should be low in citrus and dairy, to help actors maintain their voices. Pack in a separate bag for cubby storage.

Sleep and Rest

Your child will need a good night's sleep every day of tech week, and rest periods. Homework can be done when not on stage during tech

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week. If you feel this is all too much for your child, let us know.

Dress Code

Absolutely no flip flops, sandals or any other open-toed shoes, for safety reasons. Your child cannot go on stage with these shoes or barefoot. Your child should wear their costume shoes all week (send tights to school with your child if necessary).

Dress your child in loose, comfortable clothes for Monday and Tuesday's rehearsals. On Wednesday and Thursday they will leave their costumes at school, in a labeled bag, so they will need to come in street clothes with the undergarments worn under their costumes for quick changes.

“Backstage Bag”

Please prepare and label a bag for your child that contains a quiet activity or two (homework, book, finger weaving, etc.), a robe or large shirt (to cover costume during snack time). Water and a snack should be packed to be placed in a cubby outside of Room 9.

Backstage – Foreshadowing

Help us by foreshadowing for your child that the backstage area needs to be as clear and as quiet as possible during plays. When actors are not on stage or getting ready to enter the stage, they will be in a classroom. We will have crew come to get them for scenes. Noise from the backstage area carries to the audience!

There will be parents working backstage to help the actors. Please let your child know that unless you are one of these working parents, you will not be backstage during rehearsals or performances.



Ticket Orders and Money

Please DO NOT give ticket orders or money to Barb or Katie. They are busy getting the casts ready to go on stage and arranging final details.

Ticket money goes to Trish Shukwit. Tickets will cost \$5 for children under 12 (floor seating), \$10 for reserved seating (first three rows), and \$8 for general seating.

Cast orders will be processed on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. As of Dec. 2 all tickets can be purchased on a first come basis, either before school or during the last 30 minutes of Tech Week rehearsals on Weds & Thurs.

General ticket sales to all will be Dec 2-4 and Dec 9-11 at morning drop off and 30 minutes before each show.

Time Planning

We're estimating that the play (with intermission) will run approximately one and a half hours to one hour and forty-five minutes .

Videotaping

Videotaping during the performances will not be allowed.

You are more than welcome to come and videotape on Thursday during your child's Tech Week. Please note that if you are doing your own recording, you will not be able to connect to the sound board. Filming can ONLY be done from designated seating, in order to avoid interference with our cast, staff and audience members.



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LITTLE WONDERS PRE-SHOW

Tuesday, December 1

3:00-3:30 ALL CALL - Tech

Wednesday, December 2

3:00-3:30 ALL CALL - Dress

Saturday, December 5

12:30 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Sunday, December 6

12:30 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Saturday, December 12

12:30 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Sunday, December 13

12:30 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE



SPADES CAST

Monday, November 30

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Tech

Tuesday, December 1

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Tech

Wednesday, December 2

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Dress/Tech

Thursday, December 3

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Dress/Tech

Friday, December 4

6:00 p.m. CALL TIME

7:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Saturday, December 5

12:00 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Sunday, December 6

12:00 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

CLUBS CAST

Monday, December 7

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Tech

Tuesday, December 8

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Tech

Wednesday, December 9

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Dress/Tech

Thursday, December 10

3:00-6:00 ALL CALL - Dress/Tech

Friday, December 11

6:00 p.m. CALL TIME

7:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Saturday, December 12

12:00 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Sunday, December 13

12:00 p.m. CALL TIME

1:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

DIAMOND CAST

Tuesday, December 1

6:30-9:30 ALL CALL - Tech

Wednesday, December 2

6:30-9:30 ALL CALL - Dress/Tech

Thursday, December 3

6:30-9:30 ALL CALL - Dress/Tech

Saturday, December 5

6:00 p.m. CALL TIME

7:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

Tuesday, December 8 - Rehearsal

6:30-9:30 ALL CALL - Dress/Tech

Saturday, December 12

6:00 p.m. CALL TIME

7:00 p.m. PERFORMANCE

ALL CASTS – CAST PARTY

Thursday, December 17

Time/Location To Be Announced

