

August 7, 2009

Dear Chorale Members and Parents,

I hope you are having a great summer vacation! It is going by too quickly, but I'm looking forward to an exciting year for the Casper Children's Chorale! Our first rehearsal will be **Tuesday, September 1st**, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. This is a required rehearsal for all singers. We will have rehearsals each *Tuesday*, 4:00-5:30 p.m., September through the first week in May, with an additional practice once a month on appointed Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Singers need to attend an average of four rehearsals monthly to be eligible for performances (the exact number of rehearsals will be on the calendar). *Each practice, Tuesday or Thursday, counts the same.*

Parents are welcome to join us at 5:15 on the 1st and listen to us sing (regular rehearsals are closed to observation.) It is **imperative** that one parent stays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for distribution of handbooks, election of officers, and discussion about chorale policies, travel, and performances. Children do not need to stay for the meeting—they will have had a long rehearsal and there is no air-conditioning at St. Mark's. We only have two meetings a year, so please make this a priority. Thanks.

If you do not also receive this letter by e-mail, please send a corrected e-mail address to marciapatton@coffeynet.com. Communication will usually be weekly via e-mail, not by paper copies. There may also be updates at www.orgsites.com/wy/caspersings/index.html.

Our 2010 tour will be to Orlando, Florida, for a Heritage Choral Festival, April 15-19 (the 19th is a NCSD#1 vacation day). Included will be Universal Studios and the Kennedy Space Center. We will offer a September fundraiser for each singer's individual trip account (Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, and magazines!). Parents can also make \$3 for each \$100 they spend on food (everybody has to buy groceries!) by purchasing grocery coupons. The \$3 goes directly into your child's trip account, and doesn't cost you anything but some advance planning. LaRene Jensen, 265-0999, has volunteered to again administer this fundraiser, and you may start immediately (recruit your friends!).

This will be our 31st year of the Casper Children's Chorale, all made possible through parent involvement-- Board of Directors, committee volunteers, trip chaperones, and just fearless carpool drivers! Parents, please consider areas where you can help out.

Alla Breve, our upper division women's choir (ages 15 to ??), will hold auditions August 24th. Please contact me if you know of anyone who wants to schedule an audition time. *Alla Breve* has been chosen by taped audition to perform for the American Choral Directors Convention in Seattle, March 10-14. This is starting to sound routine, but convention invitations are few and far between. Many groups audition but few are chosen. We just have TALENT! Consider joining us!

If you have decided **not** to join us this year in the Casper Children's Chorale, **please** let me know immediately so I may contact an alternate. Otherwise, let's **SING** on Tuesday, September 1st!

Sincerely,

Marcia Patton, Conductor