Quarter 4 Music Newsletter, featuring "The Lion King, Jr." And the Importance of Kids Performing in School Musicals

Musical Greetings, and Welcome "Bach" to School from Spring Break!

I want to take this opportunity to share my thoughts that emerged from reading a wonderful article I came across this past week regarding the importance of school musicals. You'll find that article below, at the end of this newsletter.

However, before I go on, I would like to remind you that "The Lion King Jr." Is going to be performed on Friday, May 5th, and Saturday May 6th. It is double-cast so be sure to attend both; everyone has this wonderful opportunity to shine each night!

Not unlike the camaraderie and discipline of sports, I would like you to take into consideration the value of music; particularly the performing arts. And even more particularly: school musicals.

Among so much more, school musicals teach major life skills and lessons such as time-management, raising self-esteem, communication skills, listening skills, self-expression, daily practice/routine-building, teamwork, dedication to a project, and the difficult task of learning how to let go, to say goodbye, at the end of a project one may never encounter again.

And depending on the involvement of the student, it teaches cross-discipline skills in the arts in tech (lights, sound, stage), sets (woodworking, painting, textiles), costumes (sewing, fitting) make-up/hair, stage management (managerial experience, i.e. telling their peers where to go and what to do), and learning how to be managed (i.e. told what to do by a peer who is their stage manager, a difficult task for youngsters!).

A kid didn't get the role they wanted? This gives kids a chance to release feelings of jealousy and listen to and appreciate others' presence, talent, and skill; they learn to cheer on their "competition" rather than resent them. This can ultimately lead to being more goal-oriented; to work harder, to prove to themselves and others that they are just as capable of attaining a desired role in a future project. It also builds stronger bonds among cast-mates.

And lest I neglect to mention the ART of it all: it sparks the imagination, gives a kid the opportunity to escape from reality (as kids often need to do) but in a way that is focus-driven, gives a kid freedom but with acceptable boundaries, and of course...musicianship/acting skills such as rhythm, voice training, sight-reading, singing in harmony, body-movement.

Best of all, art, especially live performing arts, assists a child in releasing their fears, freeing themselves from the judgement of others. The  judgement and criticism from others may still be present, but a child will learn not to worry about what others think and learn to trust themselves.

Most importantly, in my opinion, no matter their role in a show, it provides the child with an opportunity to recognize their potential, and ultimately their VALUE; knowing that the project could not run smoothly, would not be all it could be, without their presence in the group.

These are some things to consider as we decide where we spend our hard-earned money and valuable time with and for our children.

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/why-musicals-should-be-as-respected-as-sports-programs>

Happy singing!

Corinne Bach, music