

# Sycamore Music Boosters

Fall 2001

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I do not know if everyone can sense it, but there appears to be real excitement in the music departments at Sycamore. First and foremost we are fortunate to have a staff that I can say is second to none in the state. At our last Music Booster meeting, you could tell how enthused our teachers are from grade through high school about the quality and talent of students they are working with and the support they receive from all of our participation in Music Boosters.

Too often, I am afraid, we do not realize just how fortunate our organization is to have the craft show each year to raise funds. If we had to rely on other means, such as candy bar sales to generate our income, we would have to sell in excess of 40,000 bars each year. That is why it is so important for you to get involved in music boosters, especially during the craft show. When you get that phone call asking for help working or through the donation of pies, just close your eyes and envision boxes of candy stacked up on your kitchen table waiting to be sold door to door and I am sure spending a few hours working will be a minor. I do need to address one extra item and that is we really need someone to step up onto the board and fill the role of treasurer. Our immediate past treasurer has no children in school anymore and has been gracious enough to help out until someone new volunteers. As an additional incentive we have also decided to provide a small stipend for this position. If anyone is interested please contact me ASAP.

My thanks to everyone who have helped, as it is you and only you that makes our organization work. Be it new instruments, uniforms, scholarships or funds to help introduce children to classical music. We can provide so much that would never be available in a school district our size, because of your efforts. Thank you.

Dan Hueber

President

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## Music Booster Members

PRESIDENT:  
DAN HUEBER

RECORDING SECRETARY:  
NANCY BONKOWSKI

CORR. SECRETARY:  
CINDY FICKEN

TREASURER:  
Open Position  
(call Dan Hueber at 895-8064 if interested)

SCHOLARSHIP:  
SUSAN LORENCE

FLEA MARKET:  
JENNY THORNTON  
KAREN WICKERSHAM

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHAIR:  
MIKE TUROK

## Come Join Us!

Music Booster meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in High School Library. Please plan to attend.



## MARCHING SPARTANS

The Marching Spartans are off with another busy season. Their first performance was with the DeKalb High School Marching Band at the annual Sycamore vs. DeKalb football game. The band opened the 2001 home football season with a performance on September 14, followed by the Homecoming Parade on September 26. This fall, the band will travel to two festivals: the annual Settler's Days Parade and Field Show, held in Marengo, and the Cavaliers Championship Preview Field Show, held at Northern Illinois University.

The other major event of the fall is the annual Illinois Music Educators Association All-District Festival, held at NIU on November 10. Both high school and junior high students will audition at Sterling High School on October 13 for the opportunity to participate in this prestigious festival. The top high school students selected for this festival are also chosen to attend the state festival, held in Peoria. We wish our students the best as they prepare for this event.

Thanks to the Sycamore Music Boosters, the Symphonic Band will be getting new concert uniforms, which are long overdue. The high school bands are professional-sounding, and they will now look professional, too! On behalf of the entire band program, thank you to the Music Boosters for your ongoing financial assistance. You truly help to make the Sycamore schools music program a special part of the community, and a special place for the students.

One additional note: The high school bands are gearing up for a band trip, which will take place at the end of March, during Spring Break. Tentatively, this will be a trip to Texas, focusing on the Houston area.

We would love to have every student make this trip! It promises to be a lot of fun, and educational, too! Stay tuned for details about a parent meeting, which will happen before the end of October.

We are still in the planning stages, but I would like to remind all band parents and students that any money earned by the students, whether it is the brochure fundraiser or the craft fair, will be used to reduce the individual student's trip cost.

## NOTE FROM THE MUSIC CHAIR

There is a great deal of excitement in the Sycamore Music Department. One of the contributing factors is the return of Lori Grant to the vocal staff. She comes back to us with enthusiasm and has a desire to grow student participation in the world of music. Many of you know that Lori is also a native of Sycamore and a graduate of Sycamore High School. Her choosing to return to where she grew up got me to thinking about putting down roots and tradition.

The Turoks arrived here just days after the first of three – "Hundred Year" floods back in July of 1983. As the years passed we raised our family, participated in a number of activities, events, and belonged to various organizations. We got to know so many people because of where we worked and what our children did both at school and in the community. Sycamore became more than a place where we lived, it was our home. We consider Sycamore an important part of who we are and will continue to be for the rest of our days.

As a community, we have many people who have family roots going back to the early DeKalb County settlers, others who are brand new to Sycamore and those like us who came and chose to stay and raise a family. Tradition is a glue that ties the members of the community together, both old and new. We attend football games to watch our students compete and perform, but also to share our time with friends and neighbors. We bake pies and volunteer to guard the exits at Pumpkinfest. Most of the time we do this because it is enjoyable and not an obligation.

Sycamore is a community that is proud of its traditions and unique quality of life.

When you take a cross-section of the community of Sycamore, you will find that the Sycamore Music Boosters are one of those organizations that are an important "glue" that unites all members of the city. I encourage you to an active role in the Music Department whether through Boosters or as a volunteer for music events or trips and become part of the Sycamore Music Tradition. May you and your student have a wonderful and rewarding experience this year.

Mike Turok  
Music Department Chair



## MEET THE STAFF

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT BOOSTER PURCHASES 2000-2001

**Lori Grant** is a newcomer to the district this year, but certainly not new to Sycamore. A Sycamore High School graduate, she is the choral director at SHS, 8th grade Choir director at the Junior High, and also teaches general music at North School. Lori graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in music education in both strings and voice. A mezzo soprano and string bassist, she in her 12th year as a music educator, 4 of which were spent as the choir director right here in Sycamore from 1992-1996. After living in the suburbs for 10 years, she moved back to Sycamore in 1999 along with her husband, Scott and two children, Sarah (5) and Ryan (3). She is currently pursuing her masters degree in choral conducting from NIU and was most recently the choral director and music coordinator for the DeKalb School District. Lori is thrilled to finally be back "home" where she belongs.

**Bob Abel** holds a B.S. in Music Education and a Masters degree in vocal arranging and conducting from NIU. This is Mr. Abel's 16th year at Sycamore and his 20th year in teaching. He is currently teaching 6 & 7th grade general music and 6 & 7th grade choir at the Jr. High.

**Judy Boyd** begins her 13th year in Sycamore. This year she is teaching General Music at Southeast and South Prairie and some beginning band lessons. She has a masters degree in performance (Saxophone) and a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Northern Illinois University. She enjoys playing flute with Sauk Community College band during the school year and with Rochelle Municipal band during the summer months. She is also active in her church choir with singing and flute.

**Ken Goodman** teaches all high school band courses and the 7th & 8th grade bands. He received a B.S. in Music Education from the University of Illinois and taught 7-12 band in Roxana, IL for 4 years. He received his M.M. in wind (conducting) from Louisiana State University in 1999. A clarinetist, Ken continues to perform on his instrument in numerous ensembles and he also served as a hand bell choir director! This is his third year here in Sycamore.

**Gary Mattin** continues as general music teacher and beginning strings assistant at West and North Schools. Gary's degrees are from North Central College and U of I. He is chancel choir director at the Federated Church in Sycamore. He plays string bass with the Kishwaukee Symphonic and this past summer played in the DeKalb Municipal Band.

**Scott Mertens** teaches 6th grade band and directs the Junior High Jazz Band. Scott received his undergraduate music education degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He completed his M.S. in music education at NIU. While at NIU he taught courses in sight singing and jazz piano methods while coaching jazz combos and playing in numerous university ensembles. Scott is active as a freelance jazz pianist in the Chicagoland area.

**Ken Tonaki** holds a Bachelor of Music from NIU. In his 6th year at Sycamore, he will be teaching high school, junior high, and elementary orchestra.

Three Tubas

Three Sousaphones

Three Mellophones

Concert Bass Drum and Stand

Baritone Saxophone

Two Sets of Indonesian Angklung

400 Tickets for Elementary Students  
to Attend Symphony Concert

Three Metronomes

Computer Proxima for Junior High  
General Music

Bass Xylophone

Two Alto Metallophones

### Attention all High School Band Parents:

Mr. Goodman is now sending out "Band Biz" via email. Call the Mr. Goodman at the Music Department at the High School and give him your email address. No more asking your band student for the weekly "Band Biz"—it will come directly to you via email!

**MUSIC CALENDAR 2001-2002****(revised 9/18/01)****FALL**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Orchestra</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Location</b>
Aug. 31	Home FB Game (Kaneland)			HS	
Sept TBA	Orchestra Sign-up Night			ELEM	HS Bandroom
Sept 14	Home FB Game (Lemont)			HS	
Sept. 18	High School Fundraiser starts			Orch, Band, Choir	HS
Sept 19-20	5th grade band sign-up			6:30-8:30	JR
Sept. 26	Homecoming Parade			HS	
Sept. 28	Home FB Game (Homecoming)			HS	
Sept. 28	High School Fundraiser ends			HS	
Oct 6	IMEA District Auditions Strings			Princeton	
Oct. 7	Marengo Settlers Day Parade/Field Show			Marengo HS	
Oct. 12	Home FB Game (Plus 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band)			HS	
Oct. 13	IMEA District Auditions			Sterling	
Oct. 13	Cavalier Field Show			NIU	
Oct. 18	Fall High School Concert ( Orchestra/Choir)			HS Auditorium	
Oct. 28	Pumpkinfest Parade			Sycamore	
Nov. 1,2,3	Fall Musical			HS Auditorium	
Nov. 10	IMEA Concert Band			NIU	
Nov. 10	IMEA District Festival			NIU	
Nov. 15	JH Choir (6,7,8) Concert			HS Auditorium	
Nov. 17	IMEA District Festival			Rock Island	
Nov. 17	IMEA District Jazz Festival (JH)			Hononegah HS	
Nov. 19	JH Band (6,7,8) Concert			HS Auditorium	
Nov. 18	IMEA Dist. 8 Jazz Festival			Hononegah HS	
Dec. ?	Madrigal Practice			TBA	
Dec. 6,7,8	Madrigal Dinner			Methodist Church	
Dec. 10	HS Winter Band Concert			HS Auditorium	
Dec. 13	JH (6,7,8) Orchestra Concert			HS Auditorium	
Dec. 17	HS Choir/Orchestra Winter Concert			HS Auditorium	

**As always, these dates are subject to change.**

**Please check with the music teachers for the most current information.**