

**Blossom Hill Elementary
&
Daves Avenue Elementary
Annual Joint Musical Production**



February 3, 4, 5 and 10, 11, 12
All shows performed at
Blossom Hill

Parent Handbook

Blossom Hill and Daves Avenue Elementary Schools
Los Gatos, CA
Proud members of LGUSD

This musical is sure to blow everyone away! The whole country is talking non-stop about Lucy Belle Bankhead's sensational new novel, "Gone With The Breeze." The heroine is spunky Jezebel O'Toole. She makes Scarlett O'Hara seem like soggy grits-and-a-half. When the nation hears that Hollywood's Lone Pine Films, the movie maker that emphasizes youth, is planning "Breeze" as its next picture, hundreds of aspiring young actresses descend on the studio. (Its last film was a bike flick, "Gasoline Opera," starring the brash young Monty Missouri.) Of course, the studio already knows they'll cast Peggy Tempest for Jezebel's part. She's the most powerful star in town and will guarantee a hit, but she's also the most temperamental one. To keep her in line, producers Ruth Wintersole and Huckleberry Jones pretend they want an "unknown" for the part. The scheme appears to work. The "unknown" selected, Vicki Rawlins, is ideal. The press builds her up big. Then it's discovered Ruth and Huckleberry don't have the film rights to the novel, and Peggy starts suing everyone in sight. How the problem is resolved will have you doubled over in laughter. Fun roles include wild tour guides, frantic studio personnel, would-be actors, agents, columnists and an army of loony lawyers on the march. With great songs, characters and crazy business, this riotously funny musical comedy will be a smash hit!

Production Team

Producers

Penny Doy (BH)
 Carol Marshall (BH)
 Kelly Blough (DA)
 Lisa Marselli (DA)

Director

Brian Houg

Choreographer

Alex Hsu
 Janice Engelgau

Vocal Director

Linda Swenberg

Communications

The musical is a huge undertaking that involves scores of cast and crew members and parents. Coordinating and communicating information and schedules with the production team, the students, and parents is not an easy task. As hard as we try to avoid it, inevitably, there are last minute changes to the schedule and other important information that needs to be communicated quickly to a large group. In order to keep everyone up-to-date on all aspects of the play, we will have two methods of communication, listed here in order of priority:

- Web page: The primary mode of communication will be via the web page: <http://blossomhill.org/play>. We strongly recommend you "bookmark" this address, as you will need to access it daily. The page will be the repository of all news related to our production. All notices, forms, rehearsal changes and other announcements will be available here. You MUST check this web page daily.

Email: In the event of last minute messages from the directing or production team, we will contact you through email. Alternatively, if you have questions, you may email or call one of the producers.

Penny Doy	356-4509	doys@comcast.net
Lisa Marselli	395-2893	lmarselli@yahoo.com
Carol Marshall	358-8559	carol@marshall-artist.com
Kelly Blough	354-7183	kellyb@me.com

If you have questions, concerns, complaints or ideas for improvement, please take them to a producer for resolution.

Critical Dates

Cast Application Packets Due

Monday, October 17 – turn into school office

Auditions

Wed, Oct.19	3 – 5:30	BH at BH
Thursday, Oct. 20	3 – 5:30	DA at DA
Friday, Oct. 21	3 – 5:30	BH & DA at DA
Saturday, Oct 22	10-2:00	BH & DA at BH

Cast/Crew Mandatory Parent Meeting (attend one)

Wednesday, Oct 19	5-6:00pm	at BH
Thursday, October 20	5-6:00pm	at DA
Saturday, Oct 22	10-11:00am	at BH

Cast List Announced

Sunday, Oct 30 Cast list posted on website.

Rehearsals begin Nov. 1 – students will not be scheduled every rehearsal day

M, T, Th.	3-5:30pm	Daves MPR
W, F	3-5:30pm (possibly later on Fri)	BH MPR
Saturday	10am-2pm	BH MPR

Crew rehearsals begin Jan.9 at BH

Heat Week

Starts January 23. Rest up – it's a fun yet busy time!

Performances

All performances will be held in the BH MPR. Show times and (call times) are listed.

Jan.31 – Cast 1 Preview Night	6pm (4:30pm)		
Feb. 1 - Cast 2 Preview Night	6pm (4:30pm)		
Feb. 2 - Cast 3 Preview Night	6pm (4:30pm)		
Fri. Feb. 3	7pm (5:30)	Fri. Feb. 10	7pm (5:30)
Sat. Feb. 4	11am (9:30)	Sat. Feb. 11	3pm (1:30)
Sat. Feb. 4	3pm (1:30)	Sat. Feb. 11	7pm (5:30)
Sat. Feb. 4	7pm (5:30)	Sun. Feb. 12	1pm (11:30)
Sun. Feb, 5	11am (9:30)		

Strike

2 hour post production requirements for all families! Sun, February 12 from 3 – 5:30.

Cast and Crew Party, Sun Feb. 12, 4:00-6:00pm at Daves MPR (following last performance)

Audition Preparation

Audition Checklist:

Turn completed packets into the office by October 17.

- Cast Application, including the All About Me section (completed by performer); picture attached; and Conflict Calendar (completed by parent)
- Expectations (read/signed by parent, performer and teacher)
- Logistics (completed by parent - including listing three volunteer committee choices)
- Participation Fee/One Check Form
- District Waiver Form

Have your child dress in comfortable clothes and appropriate shoes (sneakers/dance shoes.)

It is also a good idea to:

- Read the Parent Handbook
- Bookmark the play webpage
- Mark the parent meeting and other critical dates on your calendar

Mandatory Parent Meeting

A parent or guardian of each cast/crew member MUST attend one of the mandatory parent meetings. If it is not attended and no other arrangements are made, your child will not be able to participate in the play.

Cast Rehearsals

Not every child will be scheduled to attend each and every rehearsal. Cast members will be assigned to rehearsal groups based on their role(s) and will receive a detailed, role-specific rehearsal schedule that will describe who attends which rehearsals and when. While we initially do not plan Sunday rehearsals, they very likely will be scheduled near “show time.” A general rule of thumb for rehearsals is this:

Lead role	4-5 rehearsals per week
Supporting role	3-4 rehearsals per week
Ensemble	2-3 rehearsals per week

Loose fitting, comfortable clothing and dance shoes or sneakers must be worn at all rehearsals in order for the student to participate. No flip-flops, boots, sandals, etc are allowed. We will provide a detailed rehearsal schedule but CHANGES WILL OCCUR. Please look at the website daily.

Production Schedule

Please check the website for the current production schedule.

Parent Responsibilities

The play is an after-school activity for 4th and 5th grade students sponsored by the Daves Avenue and Blossom Hill Home & School Clubs. Both you and your child will have critical roles in the production. We absolutely can't do it without parent participation. Parent volunteers are needed

to accomplish the behind-the-scenes aspects of the production. To cover the expenses of the play, we also have a participation fee.

Time

Each family is asked to contribute a minimum of 25 pre-production volunteer hours plus 2 volunteer hours after the show. The majority of post-production work will occur immediately after the final performance. There are numerous areas in which to volunteer your time and talents. You may buy out of your volunteer time in addition to your child's participation fee. See "One Check Form" for details.

Volunteer Sign Ups

Please see the section "Play Committees" to learn about the different volunteer opportunities. Please indicate on the Logistics form three committees you would be available to contribute your volunteer hours. Thank you for your flexibility if we ask for help in another area.

Post Production Time

Even after the curtain goes down, there is still work to do! We need every family to put in two hours of time in post-production activities: clean-up, returning rental equipment, striking the sets, DVD distribution, etc. Sign up lists for post-production will be available as we get closer to the show. The majority of help is needed immediately after the last show and before the cast party can begin.

Money

The annual musical is sponsored by the Daves Avenue and Blossom Hill Home & School Clubs who provide financial infrastructure and start-up cash flow. The goal of the Home & School Clubs and the producers is that the play breaks even. In order to meet costs, cast members have a participation fee (see one check form). Since they are getting direction from the artistic staff, crew members also pay a participation fee. Fees and ticket sales go towards the cost of script/score rental and royalties, the artistic staff stipends, set construction materials, costumes, props and other expenses.

Participation Fee Form/One Check Convenience

For your convenience, we have one check payment for the mandatory participation fees and other optional fees. If you need a payment plan, please contact one of the producers prior to application due date.

Scholarships

The Home & School Clubs want every interested student to be able to participate in the play. If the cost represents a financial hardship, scholarships are available from the H&SC. Please contact one of the producers. Daves families may choose instead to contact the principal to make arrangements if desired. All scholarships are kept confidential.

Play Committees

Play production requires a lot of different skills and talents at various times. If you can't help during the day, many of the jobs can be done on weekends and in evenings:

- Sale of concessions
- Sew/procure costumes
- Supervise in the dressing rooms or green room during dress rehearsals and performances.
- Help with publicity.
- Help assemble and paint stage and sets on weekends.

Volunteer Job	Responsibilities
Cast Party	Organize cast party after final performance for cast, crew and family members.
Costume Design and Coordination	Work with director and parents to put together costumes for cast members. Arrange costume parade and coordinate with photography liaison for costume photo shoot.
Costume Sewing	Work with the costume designers/coordinators to sew and create cast costumes and fit shoes to cast.
Crew Coordinator	Ensure that all crew members are working with committees that need their assistance. Coordinate crew staffing for all performances.
Cuer	Be stationed in the Green Room and know the script well and when to send kids to the stage. Must attend tech runs.
Dressing Rooms	Oversee staffing and supervision of boys' and girls' dressing rooms during performances.
Flower Concessions	Provide flowers to sell before, during and after the intermission of performances. Coordinate staffing for all performances.
Food Concessions	Arrange for food and drinks to sell before, during and after the intermission of each performance. Setup, sell, cleanup. Coordinate staffing for all performances
Green Room Supervisors	Provide cast & crew snacks during intermission. Provide supervision of cast while they are in the Green Room. Maintain quiet noise levels in Green Room.
Hair & Makeup	Provide hair and makeup services for cast members during dress rehearsals and performances. Staff all performances.
House Manager	Manage all aspects of audience services, including seat set-up and strike, facilities management and ushers, clean up after each performance and set room for next performance. Staff all performances.
Microphones	Work with Sound crew to create document detailing microphones use (including any changes). Attach/remove microphones from cast as needed. Coordinate microphone changes with props committee (as some mic changes need to happen backstage). Microphone Chair to coordinate staffing for all performances.
Lighting Load In and Strike	Load lighting for the set. Take down the lighting after the last performance.
Photography	Responsible for photo shoot for cast members in full costume, crew in uniforms, dress rehearsal and impromptu (candid) photos. Create display in lobby using rehearsal photos and "publicity" shots of cast members. Create, produce and distribute photo CD.

Preview Night Hospitality	Host a special preview performance exclusively for the schools' teachers and staff. Includes providing a meal prior to the performance and decorating the lobby and entrance. Staff the event.
Program	Working with producer and director, coordinate design and printing of program.
Props	Create or gather props required from director's list. Manage and keep track of props during dress rehearsals and performances. Staff all performances.
Publicity	Generate publicity to promote ticket sales and create general excitement for the show around the schools and in the community. Also responsible for t-shirts.
Rehearsal Supervisor Coordinator	Coordinate one or two supervisors for each rehearsal. Also, when rehearsal is at home school, prepare the MPR, check in kids until the scheduled supervisor arrives.
Set Design, Decoration & Painting	Design sets and coordinate with construction crew to build sets. Create backdrops and large pieces (not props).
Set & Stage Construction	Coordinate construction of the set pieces and backdrops for the show.
Sound/ Video Feed load in & Strike	Coordinate and load in microphones and green room video feed for the cast members during dress rehearsals and performances. Staff all performances.
Stage Manager	Train and manage backstage crew members during dress rehearsals and performances. Staff all performances.
Strike Coordinator	Coordinate the taking down of the set, house, lighting, sound green and dressing rooms, ensuring that the school rooms are returned to the pre-performance condition.
Student Volunteer Coordinator	Assign schedule rotating students to different areas that need help during the play (matrix available.) <u>Only invited students may be scheduled to work.</u> Supervise them and sign off on paperwork.
Ticket Sales	Arrange seating chart, print tickets, sell and distribute advance tickets to cast and crew families and manage general after-school ticket sales. Coordinate with publicity person to promote ticket sales and with house managers. Staff all performances.
Video Production	Arrange for and coordinate DVD production and distribution.
Web Master	Update Web Page on a daily basis and post new documents

Play Refunds

Should the play not be a fit for your child or family, we will refund to the schedule below:

Leaving BEFORE the cast list is announced	\$100
Leaving AFTER the cast list is announced	\$25
Not meeting the Expectations criteria	\$25

General Questions

Will it be any fun?

Absolutely! Ask anyone who's participated in any one of the Blossom Hill or Daves Avenue productions in the past. It's a lot of work and a big time commitment, but it is also very rewarding, satisfying and a lot of fun for both students and adults. Please be sure to seriously consider the time and volunteer commitment before submitting your child's application.

Who is our artistic staff?

Returning after directing Aladdin Jr., Wonderland, Flapper, Wipeout and Wrangler Ranch our director, Brian Houg now takes on the sixth Blossom Hill/Daves Avenue joint production. Brian is a director, classroom teacher and former student at Blossom Hill. We are also fortunate to have Linda Swenberg, a Blossom Hill parent as our vocal director again this year.

What if my child wants to be a member of the Crew and not a performer?

Crew applications will be available in Nov. and work for crew will begin in January. Crew members are engaged in many aspects of the production, working under the direction of the stage manager. Parents of crew members are also required to volunteer 10 hours of service plus 2 hours post-production.

What if my child has conflicts with some of the rehearsals?

All known conflicts need to be noted on the conflict calendar which must be turned in with the application packet. Your child's ability to attend scheduled rehearsals will be one of the factors in determining the role your child receives. If there are too many conflicts, your child will be asked to reconsider participating in the play.

Will my child have any time to get homework done at rehearsals?

We provide a "quiet area" for students to work on their homework during any "down time". It is important to let your child know that to participate in the play they will need to be focused and manage all their activities efficiently – especially homework. Children who do not continue being responsible students will not be allowed to participate in the play.

Can I buy tickets early and for both casts?

Each cast family will receive two free child tickets and has the opportunity to purchase six advanced, pre-sale tickets at the normal price. As part of your six, you may also buy tickets for the other cast performances in advance. Parents who buy out of their volunteer time are still eligible for the six advance pre-sale tickets. Crew families are eligible for 4 advanced tickets.

Who do I go to when I have a question/comment/suggestion/problem?

Please first contact the producer(s) from your school or the appropriate committee chair. Please do not go to the director, vocal director, or choreographer directly– it is the producer's responsibility to coordinate and support all the volunteer parents. Do not go to your principals with routine questions or issues as they will refer you back to the producer.

How do I get reimbursed for things I've purchased for the play?

For your convenience, the reimbursement form can be printed off the website. There are two different forms, one for each school. Please fill out the form, attach all receipts, and have it signed by the committee coordinator. Turn in all reimbursements to the producer for approval. You will receive a reimbursement check from the H&SC treasurer. If you would like to donate items you've purchased or services you've paid for on behalf of the play, please fill out a reimbursement form but indicate at the top in bold letters that it is a donation and no reimbursement is needed. This helps keep track of what we are really spending on the play.

Audition Questions

What happens at auditions?

The director, choreographer, and vocal director want to get a general idea of each child's abilities in order to place them in an appropriate role. Each child will be learning a song, dance part, and small scene during the audition process. The directing team will watch and listen to the children over the audition period and make their casting decisions based on their observations.

What should students bring to auditions?

Your child should have had a snack and restroom break prior to arriving. They must wear comfortable clothes and dance shoes or sneakers to auditions. Long hair must be tied back. They don't need to bring anything else or prepare in any way.

Are parents or family members allowed to watch the auditions/rehearsals?

Parents are welcomed to watch rehearsals while volunteering as rehearsal supervisors. Parents are not allowed to observe auditions.

When and where will the cast list be posted?

The cast list will be posted under "Play Details" on the website according to the dates listed in the "Critical Dates" section.

Rehearsal Questions

Where are the rehearsals held?

Early rehearsals will be held at both schools. After the sets are built, the rehearsals will be moved to the host school. (We anticipate this to be January.) Please check the website and schedule for rehearsal site and information.

How will my child get to and from rehearsals?

Families are responsible for getting their own children to and from rehearsals. We strongly recommend coordinating carpools with fellow members of the cast or crew.

What if my child has a conflict with a scheduled rehearsal?

Efficient rehearsals depend on full attendance. We ask for known conflicts as part of the application so that we can do our best to accommodate those conflicts when casting and scheduling rehearsals. However, we understand that unforeseen conflicts can arise and we ask that you give as much

notice as possible to the director in these cases. It is up to the director to excuse the absence. If absences occur too frequently, your child could be taken out of their role. If your child becomes ill, we understand that this is an unavoidable conflict. Please do not send your child to rehearsal if they are ill. The health and well being of your child is more important than the rehearsals and we don't want the illness to spread to other children. Please be sure to email the director (bhoug@lgusd.k12.ca.us) as soon as you know that your child will not be able to attend rehearsal.

Will the children be able to eat a snack at rehearsal?

Your children should have a snack before arriving at rehearsal. They should bring a water bottle to rehearsals to limit their need to leave the area for a drinking fountain. During longer rehearsals, they will be given lunch breaks.

Is there a check-in/ check-out process for rehearsals?

Yes. The kids will have to sign in with the rehearsal supervisor when they arrive at the rehearsal location. At the end of rehearsal, the parent or carpool driver must sign your child out unless you have noted on the Logistics Form that they may sign themselves out. Please remind your child to not sign themselves out when they first arrive at rehearsal as this is how we confirm that everyone has been accounted for after the rehearsal.

The Blossom Hill Players Group

The Blossom Hill Players Group, founded in 2003 is a full theatre arts enrichment program designed to provide a complete theatre arts experience in a safe, supportive and team oriented atmosphere. Each year, the Blossom Hill Home and School club sponsors a musical production for the Players Group: a musical production for the students, by the students, and of course, with the help and support of staff and parents.

Blossom Hill Performances

2010/2011	Wrangler Ranch (with Daves Avenue)
2009/2010	Wipeout (with Daves Avenue)
2008/2009	Flapper (with Daves Avenue)
2007/2008	Wonderland (with Daves Avenue)
2006/2007	Aladdin Jr. (with Daves Avenue)
2005/2006	Kilroy Was Here
2004/2005	Nifty Fifties
2003/2004	Kokonut Kapers
2002/2003	Tied to the Tracks

Daves Avenue Musical Theater – An Enduring Tradition

The Daves Avenue Children’s Musical Theater began in 1972 when a Broadway actress, also a Daves Avenue parent, directed Pinocchio to introduce the students to the world of theater. After more than 35 years, the musical has become an enduring tradition that students look forward to from the time they are in Kindergarten. Ask anyone who has participated – it is a unique experience that students never forget.

Daves Avenue Performances

1972	Pinocchio	1992	Alice in Wonderland
1973	George M.	1993	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
1974	The Wizard of Oz	1994	Oliver
1975	Cinderella (Once Upon a Mattress)	1995	Leader of the Pack
1976	Babes in Toyland	1996	Peter Pan
1977	Guys and Dolls	1997	Jungle Book
1978	Oliver	1999	Really Rosie
1979	Snow White	2001	Annie
1980	Annie Get Your Gun	2002	The Music Man
1981	Sound of Music	2003	Honk!
1982	Annie	2004	The Wizard of Oz
1983	How the West Was Really Won	2004	Seussical
1984	The Wizard of Oz	2005	Bugsy Malone
1985	Frog Prince	2007	Aladdin, Jr. (with Blossom Hill)
1986	Peter Pan	2008	Wonderland (with Blossom Hill)
1987	Jungle Book	2009	Flapper (with Blossom Hill)
1988	Roamin’ Jo and Julie	2010	Wipeout (with Blossom Hill)
1989	Tom Sawyer	2011	Wrangler Ranch (with Blossom Hill)
1990	Robin Hood		
1991	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz		

