

Fourth Grade Talent Night Info

Hello Fourth Grade parents,

As you know, one of the many wonderful events at Thornton Creek is the Parent Group run Talent Night. And it's that time of year to begin thinking about it. There will be communication and updates in the weekly Thornton Creek Newsletter, but this year I wanted to reach out to each grade and try to pass on as much information up front as possible. So you can see from beginning to end, what will be needed to make this a successful show.

The key differentiator for the Fourth graders is that they can sign up to work Backstage and Lighting!

This is open to ALL Fourth graders, they do not need to be in an act to participate in Backstage or Lighting. And this is a great opportunity for kids who have not been interested in doing an act, to participate in the show.

- Backstage: with three fourth grade classes, this will put us in a place where we don't have enough positions for all the kids interested. I will work with the volunteers to see what positions we can create for the kids to help out, but please know that there are a limited amount of Backstage positions.
- Lighting: if your child is interested in one of the Lighting positions, we do ask that one of the parents join their child. To manage the Lighting board or one of the spot lights, sometimes get tricky and the spot lights get very hot. So we ask that a parent volunteers their time. And again, please note that we will have more kids interested in Lighting than positions available, so we will do everything that we can to find some role of responsibility for the kids.
- Backstage and Lighting rehearsals - there are no rehearsals for these positions. I will send out a summary of positions and their time slot about a week or more prior to Dress Rehearsal and Performance Night, the kids will be expected to attend Dress Rehearsal, where they can practice their roles, and get prepared for Performance Night.

Here is a summary of things to know or be aware of for Talent Night. And please note, I may not have specific links for all sign up documents yet, but I will send those out in future Newsletters, so please continue to go to the Thornton Creek Newsletter for updates. Most of the info below are for kids who will be in an act.

During the Winter Break (Dec. 21 - Jan. 1):

Talk to your child and ask if they are interested in participating in Talent Night. They may want to be a part of a group, which is wonderful.

First week of school, after Winter Break (Jan. 4 - Jan. 8):

Sign-ups begin!

There are three steps to the sign-up process -

1. Sign up on the classroom sheets at school. Each classroom will have a sign-up sheet, in the main hallway, near the office. Exact location is not known at this time, so please look for updates in the newsletter. Your child should write their name, and any other name that may be in the group act. And they should say what their act is; dance, song, musical instrument, skit, or jokes. Anything is fine and they can change their mind later if they want.
 - a. There will be sign-up sheets for Backstage and Lighting as well.
2. Sign up online, I will send out a link to a Google form. Please fill in all the fields and be ready to name other kids in the act as well. You will need to provide the following information:
 - First and last name of all people in the act
 - Type of Act (singing or playing music, dancing, acting...)
 - Room #

- Indicate if your Fourth grader is interested in signing up for Backstage or Lighting
 - Saturday rehearsals –select a time block for EACH Saturday that works best for you and/or group members.
 - The options are: 11:00am - 2:00pm OR 2:30-5:00pm.
The times may change for Saturday rehearsals, so please watch for any updates in the Newsletters.
3. Fill out the Permission Form. I will send out a link for this as well. This form, includes allergy information, so we can be sure we have a safe environment.

Next three weeks, will be Saturday Rehearsals. Jan. 16, Jan. 23 and Jan. 30:

Saturday Rehearsals are important because it gives the Director (I) and the backstage volunteers a chance to see each act, make notes about what lighting is needed, if Microphones are needed and lots of other important information. We ask that EACH act attends no less than 2 Saturday Rehearsals. All three are preferred, but we understand we have busy schedules.

When to arrive for Saturday Rehearsals?

Time blocks for Saturday Rehearsals are either 11:00-2:00pm (break for lunch) and then 2:30-5:00pm. You are free to arrive at Thornton Creek any time in the selected time block. If the 11:00-2:00 time block works best for you and people in the act, just arrive at the school, look for the check in table. It is a first come, first served basis...in past years this has worked out well, with minimal wait time.

Detail info for each Act.

- EACH act can be up to :90 seconds. The act cannot run over :90 seconds, if it is less than :90 seconds that is fine. The reason for this, is that there will be roughly 80-90 acts to see in one night, and we need to keep it moving.
- Each Thornton Creek child can be in one act.
- No Athletic activities.
- Pets are not allowed to be in the act.
- We will not have a fog machine, so no acts that require a fog machine.

Preparing for Dress Rehearsal and Performance Night (week of Feb. 1 - 5).

Information around Dress Rehearsal

- Location: please note that the Dress Rehearsal and Performance night DO NOT happen at Thornton Creek, the show will take place at Eckstein Middle School.
- Dress Rehearsal occurs the Wed. night before Performance night.
 - This is the run through for all the volunteers as well as the acts.
- Every act MUST attend Dress rehearsal, or they will be removed from the act line up.
- If your child has a position for Backstage or Lighting, they need to be there. If they do not show up, we will find a replacement for them.
- When to arrive for Dress Rehearsal?
 - Parents will receive more detailed information about when they need to bring their child's act to Eckstein. This information will be sent out either Monday, Feb. 1 (Late in the evening) or Tuesday, Feb. 2 (earlier in the day). They are typically broken up into 30 minute blocks, so you find your child's act number and that will give you the 30 minute time block to arrive.
 - PLEASE arrive on time! If not 5 minutes prior.
- When you arrive for Dress Rehearsal, please take your child to the Green Room (this will make sense when you get there), your child will then be guided through the process for Performance Night, parents can wait in the hallway. Please refrain from coming into the auditorium. We will take groups of acts, so the total time you will be at the school is 30-45 minutes.
- In the past, there is a large number of parents in the hallway, if you have siblings with you, please

reframe from letting them run around the halls. Eckstein has graciously allowed us to use their school, and there are custodians still working trying to get school ready for the next day.

Information around Performance Night

- Thornton Creek will be selling Pizza in the cafeteria prior to the show, so please feel free to arrive early and donate to the Pizza.
- Doors will open to the auditorium at 5:45pm. The parents typically flood in at this time, so be prepared to find some seats.
- Performance starts at 6:00pm
 - We do ask for a small donation at the door, to cover outside costs for the event. This is a Parent group run event and all donations will go to the Parent Group fund.
- Acts will be called to the Green Room.
 - In the beginning, we will call acts 1-10 to the Green Room. When you hear your child's act number called out, please help them get to the Green Room. There will be volunteers there and will guide your child to the backstage.
- There will be one intermission, typically around 7:30-7:45pm.
- The show will last for 3 to 3.5 hours.
- We typically put the Third, Fourth and Fifth grades in the second half of the show. If your Fourth grader will have a Backstage or Lighting role in the second half, and they are in an act, they be in the first half.
 - If you would like your child next to a siblings act, or have a special time that you need to leave. Please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate the request.

This may sound like a lot, but it happens in phases and it all comes together! It is such a fun event, we hope to see your child in the show or your family support the wonderful talent in each Thornton Creek child.

Please reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you

Kirsten Fonken (mom to Nick, Room 2 and Calvin in the Bungalow)

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