

Greetings, Theatre & Kids Camper Families!

January 2024

YES!!! It's time to think about the summer! In the middle of a bizarre winter full of rain, wind, balmy temperatures – and finally, a little snow – we are happy to invite you to be a part of the great adventure of **Theatre & Kids and our 2024 Starlight Summer Show Camp at Pennbrook Middle School.**

It is our pleasure to announce that this year our camp will run from **July 8 – 27** and that **our amazing camp staff will be mounting the Broadway sensation Disney's Beauty and the Beast!** This adaptation of the beloved animated classic arrived in New York City in 1994 and ran for 14 years and over 5,000 performances. Nominated for 9 Tony Awards this is perfect show choice for T&K: great roles, amazing story, fantasy sets and costumes, AND a great chorus that gets to be townsfolk, riotous crowds and performing household objects!. The great Howard Ashman and Alan Menkin songs from the animated classic are all there - "Be My Guest," "Belle," "Me," and "Beauty and the Beast"- plus added songs created for the stage with lyrics by the great Tim Rice. What an opportunity for area young people to tackle a true Broadway blockbuster!

Our last six shows are proof positive that Theatre & Kids does things in a BIG way for a BIG theatre experience: **Music Man, Little Mermaid, Pirates of Penzance, Annie, Oliver, and R+H Cinderella!** WOW! Each featured up to 300 period costumes, elaborate sets and staging, and polished music and dancing. Our large audiences were delighted and so was each performer, from the third graders to the high school seniors. Everyone danced, sang, created characters, grew in their abilities, and made great friends. Varied rehearsal spaces daily fill with music and dance, then spill out into our spacious Pennbrook Stage and Auditorium for an astonishing show.

But as we are always happy to say, a wonderful show is only a **PART** of our Starlight Show Camp. **We have really learned how to accomplish so much in only three short weeks.** We continue our beloved morning openings and afternoon closings paired with bring-in days, games, prize baskets, team building, and freeze pops! We feature twelve varied electives including favorites like Street Funk, Production Number, Improvisation, Music Composition, Irish Step, Mask-Making, Puppetry, Stage Combat, Painting and Drawing, Auditioning, and Scenework. We will have special performers and guests again and lots of other surprises as the camp days flow merrily one into another. Our Apprentice program will stretch our high schoolers and, of course, there will be the Talent Showcase and Theatre Trip to NYC.

Sooooo, **enclosed you will find our flyer for the summer along with registration forms.** We urge our campers to look them over, talk about all this with your family, and to sign up soon. Often we are full up around April and sadly have had to say no to a number of interested students, so you don't want to wait too long. After a winter of wool and work, everyone is eager to get back together AND word of mouth continues to spread on the coolness and kid-centeredness of our program. Spots could again fill in quickly.

Questions? Please send them our way.

Suggestions? Let's hear them. We're good listeners.

Registrations? A delight to our hearts!

Oh, and DO check out our updated web site – **theatreandkids.org** – lots of cool pics and surprises, camp brochures, applications, and more details. **And some really good news... our prices are actually less than last year! A discount to make our summer even more accessible to everyone. Only \$900 for the three weeks (\$750 for our Apprentice program).**

For almost four decades, the Liegels and Theatre & Kids have delighted in providing exciting opportunities for area young people. This summer it's time to get back together to delight in the joy and wonder of live musical theatre. Come join us!!!

Your friends. *Will and Suzy Liegel*