

To: All Regional Coordinators Intermediate and High School Drama Teachers

Date: December 10th, 2010

Subject: 35th Provincial High School Theatre Festival

It is time once again to think about the Annual High School Theatre Festival. This year's festival will be held in Burin on May 5-8, 2011 and will be hosted by Eastern School District under the regional chairmanship of Ms. Jennifer Nakashima and a regional committee. Please note that there are a couple of regulation changes for this year's Festival.

FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION:

All completed entry forms for the regional festivals **must** be submitted to the respective school district offices by **February 10th, 2011**. Incomplete or late entry forms will not be considered. Please note that it is the school's responsibility to ensure that any performance royalties' costs are paid as necessary.

All regional competitions must be completed by **April 11th, 2011**. Once the successful school has been named in each region, the drama teacher in that school will forward program information (school, play, cast, director and production crew) and original script to the host school district for inclusion in the provincial theatre festival booklet. This information must be submitted immediately following the regionals to the attention of: Ms. Jennifer Nakashima, Program Specialist for Fine Arts, Eastern School District at Suite 601 Atlantic Place, 215 Water Street, Box 64-66, St. John's NL A1C 6C9. Program information received after **April 15th, 2011** will not be included in the booklet.

EXPENDITURES:

Both the Provincial Theatre Arts Festival and Visual Art Gallery are supported by the Department of Education through the Provincial Cultural Connections Strategy. The Department of Education sponsors the cost of accommodations, meals (breakfasts and evening banquets) and a portion of transportation for students and teacher chaperones only. Parents and supporters are welcome to attend the festival, however, they are responsible for any costs associated with their transportation, accommodations and meals.

LOGISTICS:

Room allocations and bookings will be handled directly by the host Festival Committee. Every effort will be made to ensure that each theatre group remains together with respect to accommodations.

REGULATIONS:

To ensure that all participants in the regional theatre competitions are treated equally, teachers and students are reminded that the following guidelines **MUST** be followed:

1. The maximum number of cast members is 16 (This includes students, teachers, directors and teacher chaperones). The 16 individuals includes all members of the traveling school.

Adjudicators will be instructed to disqualify any company that exceeds this number. If there are more than 8 students in a cast, it is expected that a minimum of **two** teacher chaperones (one male and one female) will form part of the company.

2. Only students may perform on stage. Adults in the company may only operate in a production capacity.
3. Students must be intermediate or senior high school students (Grades 7- 12).
4. Plays must not exceed 45 minutes in duration.
5. Only one play per school can be entered into competition. A student can only perform in one play, i.e., for one school.
6. School representatives (including cast, teachers, directors and chaperones) must participate in all three evenings of the festival (either as an audience member or as a performer).
7. If a regional competition winner can not attend the entire provincial festival due to a graduation, or other school event, then the second place winner shall be invited as the regional representative.
8. Schools must provide original copies of scripts for adjudicators to comply with copyright laws, **three weeks prior** to provincials. Photocopies will not be accepted.
9. Regional adjudicators will be reminded to disqualify any troupe that does not adhere to these rules.
10. Any school that is in violation of these regulations will not receive an adjudication, trophy, or certificates/awards. Any extra financial costs associated with a violation will be the responsibility of the school.

Please note that it is expected that teachers pay close attention when choosing a script. It is critical that consideration be given to the appropriateness of; language, performance, subject, and community values. Teachers and students should be reminded the ages of the participants and, most importantly, the audiences who will be attending their performances.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Mary Dinn at marydinn@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



Bradley Clarke
Director of K-12 Program Development
Department of Education

Encl. (1)

cc: Dr. Marian Fushell
Ms. Georgina Lake
Mr. Mark Jones
Ms. Karen Hewett
Ms. Mary Dinn