

# Scribner Road Elementary School

Parent-Student Handbook & Audition Packet



Directed by  
Ed Rocha

Ready...Set...Curtain Up

# Sponsored by the Scribner Road PTA in conjunction with Bravo! Creative Arts



Dear Parents and Students:

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break! Now we are all looking forward to a fantastic year and our winter production of The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever. In this packet, you should find all the information you need regarding auditions, rehearsals and performances for this production. If not, feel free to contact me for further information. And most important: as you come to audition, remember... putting on a play is a team sport! When everyone is cast in a role, performing their best and working together, it not only becomes a piece of art but.... IT'S A LOT OF FUN!

So, as we all get started in a few weeks keep in mind that the job of our production team is to match up each student with the part that would be best suited for them. It's not an easy task. The production team literally spends hours and hours (and many e-mails) on this process. We want to make sure each student has the best opportunity to shine. Do you wonder how we choose each part? Take a look at the attached pages on casting and character breakdown. That's just some of the guidelines we use as we carefully consider a part for each student.

Rehearsals are where we create the magic. One of our top priorities is to make sure that our cast is giving 100% at all times! Our show performances will be the first week of December and we are looking for all of your help and hard work to make The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever the soaring success that we know it will be.

I have put together the rehearsal schedule for this year, please make sure you view it before your child auditions. You will need to fill out the conflict form, hopefully this schedule will provide lots of flexibility for your family to make rehearsals work around sports, lessons, and other family activities. On the audition form you will have the opportunity to sign up for the roles that most interests and fits your child.

If you have questions regarding roles or schedules, please contact me prior to our audition week and I will be happy to answer any questions.

I look forward to seeing you at auditions!

Sincerely,

Edward Rocha, Director



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION

Registration takes place online at [www.scribnerroadpta.org/drama](http://www.scribnerroadpta.org/drama) beginning at 7 AM on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$55 per performer and \$25 per stage crew, and includes a T-shirt. There are a limited number of spaces open for the club, register early! To ensure students from each grade have the opportunity to participate, there will be a limited number of spaces per grade. Once your child is successfully registered they are guaranteed a role in our production. Any questions about registration please direct to [dramaclub@scribnerroadpta.org](mailto:dramaclub@scribnerroadpta.org)

## ROLES & CASTING

There are many unique and special roles in The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever. Some focus on singing, others on dancing and some very important parts are strictly acting parts. There will be lead roles available, as well as smaller roles and ensemble roles. Casting will be based on an actor's age/grade, rehearsal availability, interests and audition.

## TIME COMMITMENT

The Production Team is dedicated to providing a quality educational and artistic experience to as many students as possible. Since we all have many time obligations and family commitments, we have given you the rehearsal schedule, so you can make informed choices for your student and your family. We will do our best to honor the schedule we present by making as few or no changes to the schedule and by always starting and stopping on time.

## PARENT MEETING

We will be holding a parent meeting on **Wednesday, October 2nd from 7:40p – 8p**. We strongly encourage parents to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet the Director, find out more details about the production process, and ask any questions regarding the show.

## COSTUMES

Costuming for this show is simple, as The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever is going to be set-in present-day time and all roles are children. You should be able to outfit your child from their current wardrobe. We will send costume details after rehearsals begin outlining specific costume needs per role. Some costumes and props will be on loan from Bravo! Jr. If financial assistance is needed to help costume your child or children, please speak with our team, both Bravo! Jr. and the PTA will be happy to assist. Information regarding hair and make-up will be sent home before our tech week.

## COMMUNICATION

E-mail blasts will be our primary means of communication. We will also post schedules and pertinent show information to the Scribner PTA website, [www.scribnerroadpta.org](http://www.scribnerroadpta.org) . **Please make sure we have your current email address and check the website often.**

## CONFLICTS/ABSENCES

Rehearsal conflicts are difficult for everyone involved in the show. Please list all of your conflicts – weekly conflicts, appointments, vacations, etc- on your audition sheet. This is the only way we can put together a rehearsal schedule for the students. All conflicts approved by the director at the time of auditions will be considered *excused absences*. Illness and/or injury are also considered excused. Please report absences before the rehearsal time. Long term illnesses or injuries may require some modifications to a student's role. Actors who have two or more *unexcused or unreported* absences will be asked to forfeit their role in the show.

## **\*ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL\***

**MEMORIZATION:** Memorizing your lines is one of the major responsibilities for all actors. We're in this together! Actors who struggle with lines make it difficult for the entire cast to rehearse. The due date for memorizing is **10/23**. Actors who are not actively working on memorization by the due dates may be asked to discuss the continuation of their role.

**DOUBLE CASTING:** Since all kinds of things can happen during a rehearsal period, double casting helps to cover conflicts, illnesses etc. Should the need arise to use a member of the opposite cast, the Production Team will inform them and the actor they are helping of any changes to schedules or rehearsal responsibilities. **FOR THIS PRODUCTION, WE WILL HAVE NO MORE THAN TWO CASTS.**

**TECH CREW (Grades 4-5):** We also have opportunities for students grades 4-5 who would like to work on the technical aspects of the show. There are no auditions required for Tech Crew roles. Those students interested in Tech Crew do not have to attend the auditions. Parents should attend the **Parent Meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:40-8pm** to get show information, ask questions, and fill out necessary paperwork. Tech crew should plan to attend rehearsals Wed 11/13, Wed 11/20, and then all rehearsals beginning Sunday 11/24.

### **ENSEMBLE**

An ensemble member participates in scenes and in group songs on stage but does not have any speaking lines or solos. Any student grades 2-5 may participate as ensemble. If you register your child online and choose ensemble, they will be guaranteed a non-speaking role in the show and your child will not have to attend auditions. First day for ensemble members will be Wednesday, 9/25.

**BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE POLICY:** We follow the same rules of conduct as students are expected to follow during the school day, as outlined in the Scribner Road Elementary Code of Conduct Handbook. Details of our rehearsal policy will be outlined at our first rehearsal and at our parent meeting.

**CLOSED REHEARSALS:** Rehearsals are considered "closed" rehearsals. Family and friends are asked to wait outside of the rehearsal area for your students. This keeps our noise level and distractions to a minimum.

**VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:** It takes a small army to make these productions! That's where our parents come in. All families are required to participate as a Chaperone at ONE dress rehearsal or performance during the Tech Weeks of 11/25 and 12/2. Parents will also be asked to volunteer for pre-production and post-production jobs so that we share the workload. We will send out a sign up for all jobs and chaperoning after program registration. If you have a special area of expertise that you would like to offer help with please let us know.

### **DANCE AUDITIONS**

Dance auditions will take place during the first two rehearsals. All students will learn a dance or a movement piece to perform together as a group. Please make sure your child is in comfortable and flexible clothing so they can move. Sneakers or dance shoes are a good choice for footwear. Dancing in boots or loose shoes is not recommended.

## GENERAL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

### **Auditions:**

Thurs 9/19 6-8pm Cafetorium

Fri 9/20 6-8pm Cafetorium

### **Rehearsals:** Cafetorium and Library

Wed 9/25 6-8pm

Wed 10/2 6-8pm

Wed 10/9 6-8pm

Wed 10/16 6-8pm

Wed 10/23 6-8pm

Wed 10/30 6-8pm

Wed 11/6 6-8pm

Wed 11/13 6-8pm

Wed 11/20 6-8pm

### **Small rehearsals with leads only:** Ms. Nichol's room

Fri 9/27 3:30-5:30pm

Fri 10/4 3:30-5:30pm

Fri 10/18 3:30-5:30pm

Fri 10/25 3:30-5:30pm

Fri 11/1 3:30-5:30pm

Fri 11/15 3:30-5:30pm

Fri 11/22 3:30-5:30pm

### **Tech weeks:** Cafetorium, Library, Ms. Nichol's Room, Stage

Sun 11/24 2-5pm

Mon 11/25 6-8 pm

Tues 11/26 6-8 pm

THANKSGIVING

Sun 12/1 2-5 pm

Mon 12/2 – Dress Rehearsal 6-8 pm

Tues 12/3- Dress Rehearsal 6-8 pm

Wed 12/4- Dress Rehearsal 6-8 pm

Thurs 12/5- Dress Rehearsal 6-8 pm

### **Performances:** Cafetorium, Stage, Gym

Fri 12/6 CAST A Performance at 7 pm (call at 5 pm)

Sat 12/7 CAST A Performance at 1 pm (call at 11 am)

Sat 12/7 CAST B Performance at 6 pm (call at 4 pm)

Sun 12/8 CAST B Performance at 1 pm (call at 11 am)

## **SHOW SYNOPSIS**

Skyler is about to turn 12, and she's planned the biggest celebration of the year. But in the middle of the party, something mysterious happens – all the adults suddenly vanish! Trapped in the backyard, the kids realize they must create a brand-new society. However, when they elect Skyler's older brother, Charlie, as their ruler, things really begin to spin out of control. Eventually the kids learn a big lesson in responsibility, while Skyler and Charlie develop a greater respect for one another.

## **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

**This is largely an ensemble show. Most characters participate in at least 6 group songs. Solo singing characters are noted. Most characters are gender fluid (can be shifted from male to female or female to male).**

**NARRATOR 1, NARRATOR 2, NARRATOR 3, NARRATOR 4:** strong, dramatic speaking voice

**SKYLER:** the birthday girl, most enjoys being in control, but her older brother Charlie always steals the attention. 4 lengthy singing solos.

**CHARLIE:** Skyler's older brother, overlooks his younger sister, elected ruler and lets the power go to his head. 2 singing solos.

### **The Troupes**

**KURT:** head of The Troupes, strict and disciplined. Some solo singing.

**KAI:** Kurt's best friend, a hip-hop dancer. Some solo singing.

**LOGAN:** intelligent, obedient

**TOBY:** first to lose his/ her cool

**PHOENIX:** short temper

**REESE:** joins The Troupes, eventually switches to the folk musicians.

### **The Folk Musicians**

**JOY:** intellectual.

**LUCKY:** rebel, energetic.

**CAMEO:** laid-back.

**GAIL:** locked in the bathroom (3 monologues)

**WOLF:** survivor, fan of "Man vs. Wild" (2 monologues)

**JO:** Chef of Charlandia, not very bright. Some solo singing.

**FELIX:** Charlandian, assistant to JO. Some solo singing.

**QUINN:** Judge of Charlandia, gets a little carried away at times. Some solo singing.

**ELI:** Charlandian, assistant to QUINN. Some duet singing.

**EMERY:** Jester of Charlandia. Some solo singing.

**PIM:** Charlandian, younger, escapee.

**LILY:** Kurt's younger sibling.

**SKYLER'S MOM:** shows up at the very end, should be played by an adult (perhaps Skyler's real mom?)

**KIDS/CHARLANDIA CHORUS:** Participates in approximately 6 scenes and 6 songs

## AUDITION MONOLOGUES

Please choose **one** of the following monologues to memorize for your General Audition.

**CHARLIE-** You think you can run a country? Fine! (He draws a line in the dirt.) You and your country stay on that side of the lawn. But don't come to me for any help! And once we master the art of making pizza, we will - not - share! Fellow Charlandians, come gather here. I have an announcement to make! (ALL CHARLANDIANS file in.) From this day forward, no Charlandian shall cross over THIS line!

**GAIL-** Hello!? Hello?! Anybody?! (*She deflates, breathes, and then turns to directly address the audience.*) It's been forever since I've heard a single sound out there. When I first got to the party today I sort of overdid it with the lemonade, so I asked Skyler's mom where the bathroom is. While I was in here I heard a strange sound, and when I was ready to leave, after I washed my hands of course, ...(*she mimes trying to twist a door knob, lightly at first, then harder and harder until it falls to the floor*)...the door knob fell off!!!! I was stuck. INSIDE SKYLER'S BATHROOM!! So, naturally I screamed through the knob hole "Skyyyyler! Mrs. Skyler! Heelp meee!" But no one seemed to notice. I know the kids are in the backyard, but "WHAT KIND OF PARENTS LEAVE A GIRL STUCK IN THE BATHROOM?!" (*Calming down.*) Ahem, sorry. I've never been one to panic. Surely someone will need to use this bathroom... eventually. (*Fake smile.*) I'll be fine. (*More determined*) Yes, I will be fine.

**SKYLAR-** (to the audience) When I was 8 and was afraid to go to my first piano recital, I hid in this treehouse. I felt safe. When I was 10 and my dad yelled at me for lying, this is where I ran to. I felt protected. And now that I'm 12, and everyone has left me on my birthday... well, what better place to be?

**WOLF-** (front of curtain, alone) Back in the summer of '15, I got the chickenpox pretty bad.. Laid up for 2 weeks, I stumbled upon the most incredible, dramatic, awe-inspiring show ever created for television - MAN VS. WILD. Day after day, I would slurp down my chicken soup while I memorized every detail of how to survive in nature. Beetles, quicksand, elephant dung - I knew it all. I always had a feeling someday my knowledge would come of use. And now I know I was right. From now on, I will be called "Wolf". And Wolf will single-handedly save us all!

**JOY-** *(to the audience)* I'm not sure how we ended up here. I'm usually not one to put myself at risk for others, but people deserve freedom, and we are in a position to help. *(To the escapees)* Okay, listen closely. You'll need to remember every word we say. When you get to the tool shed, roll on the ground two times while you hum the first phrase of "Charlandia".

**KURT-** Drop and give me 10 for questioning my authority! We have no idea what other countries are being formed in other backyard. Any minute an enemy could come over that fence. And if they do *(holding up a water balloon)*, we MUST be prepared. *(A kazoo heard off stage)* This is it!! Enemy approaching!

**NARRATOR-** On June 4th, 2013, Skyler Marie Benibaum turned 12 years old. Skyler being Skyler, she threw the biggest birthday party of the century, inviting every kid in town. But halfway through the party, just after the water balloon fight but before the cake, things took a dramatic turn. In an instant, there was a flash; and a buzz; the power went out! And once the kids made sense of everything, they realized...Every adult had vanished!

**NARRATOR-** All was fine and well, until they tried to get more food from inside. The doors and windows to Skyler's house were locked. They were stuck in Skyler's backyard and there was NO WAY OUT! What felt like hours, days, an eternity passed. Left alone with nothing but a cake, some mountain dew, and a half-eaten pizza, the kids were completely on their own. In that moment, as the last cell phone showed faint battery life, they all came to realize...things would never, ever be the same again. THIS is their story...

## **VOCAL AUDITION**

The vocal audition consists of students doing a simple scale the director requests *in order to check vocal range, timbre, intonation, and placement*. This particular show *has very definite vocal ranges for both characters and groups*. No songs need to be prepared but you must come to auditions ready to sing.