

Dear TCGIS Parents and Staff:

Our school's big fundraising gala, **Maskenball**, is set for Saturday, February 20, at the Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul. With a 1930's theme this year, it is destined to be an evening filled with music, dancing and swanky costumes! Best of all, it's a great opportunity to raise a tremendous amount of money for our school! The success of this event doesn't depend on only a few, but rather on the collaborative efforts of our entire school community. We hope to encourage everyone to pitch in and to insure **Maskenball** is a smashing success.

**While TCGIS parents are absolutely critical to the event's success, they are not its sole audience.** Please invite your family, friends and anyone else who is enthusiastic about TCGIS, whether it's because we promote the German language and culture, because we offer an immersion education, or because we're a can-do charter school that offers kids a great education on a shoestring budget. People who just love a great party are also welcome! Tickets are now for sale on the **Maskenball** website, [www.maskenball2010.org](http://www.maskenball2010.org). **If you know that you'll be attending, please consider buying your tickets early, as that really helps our committee to manage the budget.** Again this year, we're going to have advance bidding online, so that people who can't make it to **Maskenball** can still get in on the action.

**Finally, and most important of all, we need your help with the silent auction!** There are many ways that you can help:

**1. Work with Others to Organize a Gathering or Event.** This year the Silent Auction Committee is hoping to feature more gatherings and community events. Events and gatherings that bring people together are always great auction items, not to mention good community builders. We're looking for families to collaborate on something special, whether it's for just one grade or class, for adults or kids only, or for anyone in our extended school community Think of events like a winter sledding or skating party, spring kite flying fun, a summer barbeque or a fall bonfire. Talk with the other parents in your child's class or friends from other grades to plan an event you can host. Small or large, elaborate or simple, it doesn't matter. Some examples that are in the works:

- A camping weekend at a state park
- A class to learn how to spin yarn
- A fairy-princess themed birthday party, including entertainment & party favors
- A wine tasting complete with a catered meal

**2. Donate to the Wall of Wine.** This year's raffle will feature some amazing items, one of which will be a Wall of Wine. We're asking all families, who are comfortable doing so, to donate a bottle of wine. Our goal is to have 100 bottles of wine to fill our wall. You may already have a bottle of wine at home that you could donate, or you might choose to purchase something specifically for this raffle prize. If you donate a wine of extra-special significance (vintage, grape varietals, etc.) please tell us so it can be properly featured. Email Leslie Watson, [leslie38@comcast.net](mailto:leslie38@comcast.net), to make arrangements to donate a bottle of wine.

**3. Help Us Collect Great Auction Items.** Please, please, start collecting silent auction items. Unique, attractive auction items are the key to raising money for the benefit of our kids! A few ideas:

- Consider your own skills—can you auction your handyman, babysitting, or painting abilities?
- Would you be willing to donate a weekend at a family cabin or at a timeshare?
- Can you lead a tour to someplace interesting, or do you know someone who can?

Think about your personal connections. Contact the businesses that you frequent and ask if they'd be willing to make a contribution. We are also still seeking general sponsors and sponsorships begin at the \$150 level. Be sure to tell businesses that their donations are tax deductible, and that our online silent auction feature will include photos and website links to donating businesses as an extra way of promoting their services.

You will find attached a donation letter and form to use when you solicit items. So that we can keep accurate records, please use the attached form for every donation, even if it's for something that you're contributing personally. Deliver the filled out form and item/s to the silent auction coordinator, Rebecca Johnson, either in person or by leaving them for her at the school's front desk. Extra donation forms are also available at the front desk.

Fundraising is a challenge anytime, but in this economic climate it's especially daunting. Still, our school's financial needs don't go away in an economic downturn—if anything, they are more pressing than ever. Because of that, we're doing everything we can to make sure that **Maskenball** is a success, both as a fundraiser and as a fantastic night out. Please help us make it happen!

Don't hesitate to contact anyone on the **Maskenball** Auction Committee for more information, or to find out how to become involved. Any amount of time you can volunteer is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The TCGIS Maskenball Silent Auction Committee

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