
Christmas Concerts in the Northwest School Division: The Bottom Line December 10, 2009

All of the data listed below is derived from interviews with people on site and can be considered accurate within 4.4 percentage points 95 per cent of the time. Predictions are based on statistical analysis of currently unfolding events or observed past trends. None of this is made up. None of it.

1. Total number of students involved as performers: 1968
2. Total number of staff involved: 222
3. Expected audience: 5552
4. Average time of rehearsal per student: 14.5 hrs.
5. Total time put in by all participants: 32,532 hrs.
6. Number of schools that have to stage more than one concert: 2
7. Number of venues that are filled and Standing Room Only: all of them
8. Weight of singing students on the Marsden Stage during the finale: 2742lbs.
9. 164 elves, 34 Christmas presents, 83 reindeer*, 10 teddy bears, several pirates, 10 hockey players, 20 Christmas trees, 150 heavenly singing angels, many assorted barnyard animals, troupes of Métis, Mexican and German dancers, 3 wise men, 1 Mary, 1 Joseph, numerous shepherds, 21 Hawaiian luau dancers, 1 little red hen, 1 giant, a big bad wolf (or two), Foxy Woxy, and a shark (1) will make their theatrical debuts this season.
10. 16 students in Paradise Hill will be missing 2 front teeth.
11. Maximum live weight on the Goodsoil stage: 4127 lbs.
12. Total weight of the Hillmond 'Christmas Time Is Here' chorus: 7022 lbs.
13. *Number of schools who do not acknowledge Rudolph as a reindeer for the purposes of this survey: 1
14. Number of aaaaahs that will be heard in the Goodsoil gym when the dancing penguins appear: 357

Santa Claus: Will have some remarkable experiences. He will play in the NHL (and forget his Christmas duties in consequence), act as a judge, be marooned on a desert isle with pirates, be investigated by a squad of detectives, investigate the greenhouse effect in the course of promoting recycling, become a rock and roll superstar, win \$1,000,000 in Marshall as a contestant in a game show, and then win a second \$1,000,000 as a contestant in a game show in Hillmond two nights later, start an exercise program in an attempt to lose weight, take up disco dancing and then work as a cowboy in an attempt to spruce up his image only to find that people just can't handle change, have a good time handing out gifts to the children in Paradise Hill, discover the meaning of Christmas around the World in Pierceland and meet his double in Dorintosh.

Frosty the Snowman, on the other hand, will be jailed in Maidstone at the instigation of Mr. and Mrs. Crabby and then partially melted by detectives in a well meaning but misguided attempt to warm him up.

15. Total students who will fall off the stage in Hillmond this year: 0 (or so we hope)
16. Number of students who will burst into tears on stage (division wide): 27
17. Teachers who shamelessly lied about the number of students who would burst into tears: 4
18. Teachers who will burst into tears before the concert ends: 8
19. Total # of students who will burst into tears on stage in Lashburn, Marshall, Paradise Hill, Dorintosh and Loon Lake: 0, because kids in those communities are mentally tough.
20. Number of students in Lashburn, Marshall, Paradise Hill, Dorintosh and Loon Lake who will point, fall down, laugh, gaze around the room like they've just landed on another planet and/or spontaneously break into a happy dance because they feel that's what the situation requires: 11
21. Students who will interrupt their scripted performance to clearly and emphatically announce that they must visit the bathroom: 2
22. Percentage of male audience members who will nod off during the grade two's recitation of 'The Night Before Christmas': 4 %
23. Children who, while waiting to go on stage, will get carried away by the excitement of the night and totally lose it: 22
24. Number of schools that have taken up Christmas Concert Alternatives (e.g. Family Christmas Nights, Christmas Banquets etc.): 4

Moneys and goods received for admission by schools will be donated to the Salvation Army, the food-banks and food hampers, Invisible Children, Interval Homes, the S.P.C.A., the Crisis Centre, Ronald MacDonald House, and the Empty Stocking fund.

25. Number of songs to be sung: 144
26. Number of dances to be danced: 51
27. Number of bands that will make their First Appearance Ever: 3
28. Number of students, staff and parents who will leave the concerts completely entertained and filled with love, joy, and peace: 7275

And that's the bottom line.

We at the Northwest School Division would like to wish everyone the very best for the holidays and happiness and joy in the coming New Year.