



Talent Education Suzuki School

January 2012 Newsletter

♪ Notes ♪

Happy New year! We hope everyone had a music-filled break! Did you go on vacation and bring your instrument? Share your music with friends and relatives? Please send us your stories to be printed in the next newsletter!



This picture shows violin students Zoe Haley-Johnson, Rachel Dong, Kovi Bodek, Allen Dong, Daniel Hong, and Beatrice Low performing with cellists Eva Bodek and Ruby Toomey-Wilson, and guitarist James Toomey-Wilson at The Marvin Senior Center in Norwalk on Christmas Day. Yes, that's me you see in the back row - high school student Jacob Henny is leading the group!

Is practicing feeling a little rusty? Some tips for rebuilding practice routines in the new year:

- play more games during the repetitious portions of the session - make it fun!
- increase rewards during practice and for the act of practicing, then phase them out as routine is established
- enroll in the 50 Days of Practice that begins today
- some practice is better than no practice - it's okay to let a few things go at first so as not to overwhelm either you or your child
- rotate a full practice between two days so that everything is covered without being too much
- if review is rusty, pick one song a day to revive and relearn; recognize that your child is relearning and needs extra help and patience
- don't be surprised if your child struggles with what was once easy - it will come back with repetition and praise

And, of course, plan to take as many lessons in the summer as possible! If it's tough to come back from two weeks imagine an entire season!

Keep Twinkling,
Becki

New Events

You will notice a few events coming up on the calendar. A favorite tradition is the Advanced Recital, featuring the students at the top of our school. It is on Saturday, January 14 from 3-4pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. New calendar events include two opportunities for Supervised Practice! Your child can join other TESS kids to practice under Ms. Becki's watchful eye and you get the day off! For students of all instruments, ages 7, book 3 and up only. Please RSVP - limited to 12 students.

December Graduations

Congratulations to Mariam Topchyan, who graduated from piano book 4 and studies with Mr. Joel. Rusty Wells graduated from piano book 1 and studies with Mrs. Marija. Violinists Allen Dong and Daniel Hong graduated from book 3, and violinist Peter Sutin graduated from book 1. All three boys study with Ms. Becki. Nicky Anderson and Molly Brown both graduated from guitar book 1 and study with Mr. Jesse. Great job everyone!



Student Profile

Celia Mundt studies flute with Mrs. Julie, for three years. She is nine years old and attends the Tokeneke School in Darien. She likes how you can always hear the flute in an ensemble. She likes to listen to all kinds of music - Suzuki recordings and on the radio. She plays in the band in school and a young flute choir as part of the Stamford Youth Symphony. In addition to music, she also enjoys playing soccer and tag. Her brother Tristan plays guitar and they have sometimes played together for family at holiday parties. Celia also helps her cousin with her band music - she also plays flute!

Summer Camp and Institute News

Summer Camps are a great way to switch it up and motivate your child in brand new ways! TESS will again host the Audition Boot Camp for youth orchestra auditionees, and 2012 Suzuki Institutes are listed at www.suzukiassociation.org. Advanced and older students who are outgrowing Suzuki Institutes should check out the Summer Camp binder by the school copier for a national overview of music camps. Ms. Becki will be available on Monday, January 16 from 8-9 to discuss summer options with interested parents. Please RSVP!

10 Commandments for Suzuki Parents

Try these for more joyful practices at home:

Thou shalt offer loving encouragement to thy child.

Thou shalt find something good in every attempt.

Thou shalt not compare thy child with another child.

Thou shalt communicate successes, failures, and frustrations with teachers.

Thou shalt not visit with other parents during children's lessons.

Thou shalt be content with each step forward (or backward).

Thou shalt be understanding when a child wishes to watch rather than participate.

Thou shalt trust the teacher's plan for your child's musical progress.

Thou shalt approach daily practice sessions with enthusiasm

Thou shalt LOVE listening to Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star!

Weather Closings

Just a reminder - we try to stay open in all kinds of weather! Because roads are typically cleared by the time lessons begin, please check your email or the school's recorded message at 203.956.6708 to find out if we are open. WE DO NOT NECESSARILY CLOSE IF PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSE! Individual teachers who travel farther may find it necessary to cancel even if the school stays open and will contact their students personally. All private lessons cancelled due to inclement weather will be made up according to our standard make-up policy. Unfortunately, group classes cannot be made up. For full TESS policies, please visit our website at www.musicattess.com and click on "Policies."

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." - Albert Einstein

2012 TESS Calendar

Mon. Jan.2	OPEN New Year Term, 23 weeks (new students only) 50 Days of Practice Begins
Sat. Jan. 14	Open House, 9:30am-11:00am Advanced Recital, 3:00pm, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Sat. Jan. 21	Graduation Recitals
Sat. Jan 28	Improv Workshop - regular group class schedule Last Day Fall Term
Sun. Jan. 29	Supervised Practice, 2-3, Books 2-4 violin duet rehearsal, 3-4pm
Mon. Jan. 30	First Day Winter Term, 19 weeks
Sat. Feb. 4	1st Day Meet the Instruments, 9am
Sat. Feb. 18	Graduation Recitals
Mon. Feb. 20	President's Day, CLOSED Last Day of 50 Days of Practice if you started on time
Tues. Feb. 21	OPEN
Sat. Feb. 25	Last Day of 50 Days of Practice
Sun. Feb. 26	Supervised Practice, 2-3, Optional Angry Birds Practice Session, 2-2:30
Sat. March 3	Practice Party, 1pm Advanced/Angry Birds Rehearsal, 2pm
Sat. March 10	Graduation Recitals Advanced/Angry Birds Rehearsal
Mon. March 12	Summer Registration Begins
Sat. March 17	March Celebration Concert
Sat. April 14	Graduation Recitals
Mon. April 16	Spring Break, CLOSED
Mon. April 23	OPEN
Sat. April 28	Advanced Student Master Class
Mon. April 30	Fall Registration Begins
Sat. May 5	Student Recitals
Sat. May 12	Student Recitals Fall Registration Due
Sat. May 19	Graduation Recitals
Mon. May 22	Memorial Day, CLOSED Memorial Day Parade, 9am
Sat. June 2	Advanced Master Class
Sat. June 9	Advanced/Honors Recitals
Sat. June 16	Graduation Recitals
Sat. June 23	Last Day Winter Term
Mon. June 25	First Day Summer Term
Wed. July 4	Independence Day, CLOSED
Sat. July 21	Graduation Recitals
Sat/Sun Aug 4/5	SoNo Celebration Concerts
Sat. Aug. 11	Graduation Recitals
Sat. Aug. 18	Last Day Summer Term
Aug. 20-24	Summer Recovery Camp
Wed. Sept. 29	First Day Fall Term