



Talent Education Suzuki School

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## September 2011 Newsletter

♪ Notes ♪

I hope everyone has had a great summer and is safe and sound after last weekend's adventure! TESS has power and is unharmed, so classes started as scheduled on Wednesday, August 31.

The picture on the right is from our Summer Recovery Camp last week. Open to violinists book 3 and above who are auditioning for youth orchestras, this picture was taken of all of our teenagers practicing their scales! Fun, friendship and music - what a better way to end the summer?!



Our first Community Performance this year is at the Oyster Festival on Saturday, September 10, which is a fundraiser for the Norwalk Seaport Association. This non-profit has educational programs on environmental issues surrounding the Sound and maintains Sheffield Island Lighthouse, a historic treasure. We will be performing on the Children's Stage from 2:00-2:45. Please remember that all students, Twinkle graduates and up, are invited to perform. These performances are a great way to motivate your child to practice and get the most for your tuition at the same time! Students must sign up by Wednesday, September 7 to receive complimentary tickets for one adult and one child. Tickets must be picked up at TESS between 9am and 12pm on Saturday, September 10. Parking instructions will be included with your tickets - please allow plenty of time as you may need to take a shuttle! Please wear TESS T's and dark bottoms. It is imperative that participating children be ready to go no later than five minutes prior to the start time. We usually fill the stage and then some, so it is not possible to add children to the stage once the performance has begun.

The week of September 12 is TESS T-shirt week! Wear your TESS T, or come dressed in TESS colors, purple and green. As always,

Keep Twinkling!  
Becki

### August Graduations



Congratulations to violinist Sarah Mitchell for graduating from the violin books - all 8 of them! Preston Joffe graduated from violin book 6. Both Sarah and Preston study with Ms. Becki. Violinist Kristen Young also gave her Advanced Solo Recital at Pequot Library during August and studies with Teo. We look forward to more graduations in September!

### Student Profile

Mariam Topchyan is 9 years old and will be a fifth grader at All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk. She studies piano at TESS with Mr. Joel and started taking piano lessons in the summer of 2009. She played at her school's Christmas Concert last year with other TESS students. She says she feels really good when she plays the piano and she enjoys it. Her uncle is a concert pianist in her home country, Russia. Mariam also likes to write and illustrate little books. She says that TESS rocks!



## Missed Lessons

We are closed on Monday, September 5 for Labor Day. Your teacher will offer up to two opportunities to make up those classes and then the class is considered to be made up. We are open for all other one-day holidays. For a complete presentation of our policies, please visit our website or refer to the new Parent Handbook your teacher will be giving you next week!

## Family Recital

We will be hosting the Annual Family Recital on Sunday, October 23 at 2:00pm, most likely at St. John's Lutheran Church in Stamford. All levels and relations are invited to participate - we can have a parent and child duet on Twinkle as well as our amateur and professional parents and relatives perform. Please talk to your private teacher if you would like to participate. The deadline to sign up is Friday, October 7. There is no fee to participate in this concert and our entire TESS family is invited to attend in support!

## Practice Competitions

While the Suzuki Method is non-competitive in nature and each child moves at their own pace, that pace is usually determined by the amount of effort put into practice! We understand that home practice can be challenging, so we have a game to help. Suzuki students are encouraged to join us in 50 Days of Practice. The formal quest begins on Tuesday, September 6 and ends 50 days later! We will have a party at the school for all of the students who finish these 50 Days. Please see your teacher for rules regarding bonus practice days and special prizes!

## 2011 TESS Calendar

Wed. Aug. 31	First Day Fall Term
Mon. Sept. 5	Labor Day, CLOSED
Sat. Sept. 10	First Mommy & Me 2's class, 16 weeks Oyster Festival Community Performance, v/c/g/f/p, 2:00pm (note time change)
Tue. Sept. 13	First Tuesday Talent-Ed Kids Meet the Instruments, 8 weeks
Wed. Sept. 21	Coffee with Becki for New Suzuki Parents, 10am-11am (Q & A)
Sat. Sept. 17	First Saturday Talent Ed Kids Meet the Instruments, 8 weeks Graduation Recitals
Sat. Sept. 24	Afternoon Tea with Becki for New Suzuki Parents, 1pm-2pm (Q & A)
Sat. Oct. 8	Graduation Recitals
Mon. Oct. 10	Columbus Day, OPEN
Oct. 14 - Oct. 16	Mark O'Connor Teacher Training and Student Workshop Music for Youth Piano Concert and Free Masterclass
Sun. Oct. 23	Family Recital, 2:00pm, place TBA
Wed. Nov. 2	Parent Night, all levels, 8pm
Sat. Nov. 5	Advanced Master Class, Violin book 6+, Piano book 4+, Included in tuition
Sat./Sun Nov. 12/13	Student Recitals
Sat. Nov. 19	Graduation Recitals
Tues. Nov. 22	OPEN, no Meet the Instruments
Wed. Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Break, CLOSED
Mon. Nov. 28	OPEN
Sat. Dec. 10	Music for Youth Violin Concert and Free Masterclass
Sat. Dec. 17	Graduation Recitals
Mon. Dec. 19	Holiday Break, CLOSED

Sun. Dec. 25 Christmas Senior Center Concert Community Performance, v/c/f/g/p  
 Sat. Jan. 7 Music for Youth String Quartet Concert and Free Masterclass  
 Mon. Jan. 9 Sign up week for March Concert Advanced Violin Ensemble, Angry Birds Theme Song  
 Sat. Jan. 21 Graduation Recitals  
 Sat. Jan 28 Improv Workshop, Last Day Fall Term  
 Mon. Jan. 30 First Day Winter Term (20 weeks)  
 Sat. Feb. 18 Graduation Recitals  
 Mon. Feb. 20 President's Day, CLOSED  
 Tues. Feb. 21 OPEN  
 Sat. March 3 Advanced Rehearsal and Angry Birds Rehearsal, 2pm, Mandatory for March Concert Participation  
 Sat. March 10 Advanced Rehearsal and Angry Birds Rehearsal, 2pm, Mandatory for March Concert Participation  
 Graduation Recitals  
 Sat. March 17 March Celebration Concert  
 Mon. April 2 Nominating for TESS Veteran Begins (for the seat of honor on the Memorial Day Parade float!)  
 Sat. April 14 Graduation Recitals  
 Mon. April 16 Spring Break, CLOSED  
 Mon. April 23 OPEN  
 Sat. April 28 Advanced Master Class, 2-5  
 Nominations for our TESS Veteran Due  
 Sat. May 5 Student Recitals  
 Mon. May 7 Distribution of music for Memorial Day Parade  
 Sat. May 12 Student Recitals  
 Sat. May 19 Graduation Recitals  
 Mon. May 28 Memorial Day Parade, 9am  
 Sat. June 2 Advanced Master Class, 2-5  
 Sat. June 9 Advanced/Honors Recital, 3pm  
 Sat. June 16 Graduation Recitals  
 Sat. June 23 Last Day Winter Term  
 Mon. June 25 First Day Summer Term (8 weeks)