



TESSI Newsletter

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

QUICK CALENDAR:

1/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 6 of 11
\$10 late fee as of 1/23*

2/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 7 of 11
\$10 late fee as of 2/23*

2/17/08 -- Recitals

*1:30pm and 3:00pm
-- Carbondale Civic Center
*See the kitchen bulletin board
at TESSI for time assignments
and refreshment signups*

Sat/Sun 2/23 and 2/24/08

NFMC Junior Festival
(participating students)

Week of March 10th

Spring Break – see your
teacher for their schedule

3/15/08 -- Tuition Due

Tuition payment 8 of 11

4/13/08 -- Recitals

4/15/08 -- Tuition Due

Tuition payment 9 of 11

5/4/08 – Gold Cup Recital

Time/Location TBA

5/15/08 -- Tuition Due

Tuition payment 10 of 11



WELCOME !!

*To these new TESSI students
and their families*

Lydia Rogers (violin)

Sogol Fouladi (violin)

(And thanks to the Sayehs)

Samantha Fisher (guitar)

Great to have you with us!

In This Issue

- **Bravo to Our Parent Partners**
- **Friends and Family, visitors at lessons**
- **A Review of Parents and Lessons**
- **Performance News**

From us to You: Bravo to Our Parent Partners

Perhaps we Talent Education teachers don't take enough time to tell you what a good job you do with your children. It's possible that we don't mention often enough how much we rely on you and count on your daily work with the children.

While there are teachers who use the Suzuki Method materials but do not develop a deep commitment to working with parents, we have chosen to give careful consideration to working with parents. We have high expectations of ourselves, and our parents. We feel that the great majority of our students reflect how very well you are working at home and at lessons.

Because we feel so strongly about the quality of your commitment, we are including a sort of thumbnail sketch in reviewing (what else?) Lessons, Parents and Children in this issue. We expect that you will recognize many of the techniques you already use, enjoy a trip down memory lane to your early years as parent educators, and appreciate how wise you've become.

We would like to have you write us a note with feed back on this and other TESSI newsletter topics, with a suggestion or two about other matters that we can include in upcoming issues of this publication.

Hoping to hear from you

Your teachers -- *Joyce, Alyce, and Dave.*

Friends and Family, visitors at lessons

Friends and family can be very important in supporting our young budding musicians. They attend concerts, and are an important part of our audiences. At lessons they are fascinated, encouraging and unflinching impressed by the process of learning music the Suzuki way.

Our most successful visits have been carefully prepared by explaining that the focus of the lesson is the student and the parent is there to take careful notes for homework.

When friends of the student come to lessons, parents explain that visitors watch quietly and enjoy the lesson without interrupting, because the teacher, parent and their friend are all hard at work doing their job.

Siblings who attend lessons understand the work going on and generally have quiet activities to keep them occupied...that is, unless they happen to be toddlers.



Did You Know?

The following newest TESSI instrumentalists are former Wiggles N' Tunes® students of Teacher Alyce -
Violin –

Alexys Wilkey, Emma Bottrell, Milla Crossier, Isabel Kuczynski

Piano –

Alex Baughman, Sophia Aaflaq

Guitar –

Samantha Fisher

And some older students...

Anthony Stoecker, Adam Lahlou, Jasmine Noble, Caitlin Sherwood



Valentines...

From Parent's to Children:

- I'm here because I care.
- I'm your support system and personal assistant.
- I'm you home teacher and biggest cheerleader.
- I am your parent.

From Teachers to Parents:

- You are an experienced person of the world.
- You value worthwhile experiences with your child.
- You guide and teach your child every day.
- You do all these acts of love for your child's best benefit.

TESSI

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Send Us Your News!!

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(continued)

Toddlerhood is a period of time in which the vast majority of children need to be anywhere, but in individual lessons. Luckily, toddlers move through this phase relatively quickly, depending on the child. Much as we want toddlers in the rich environment of lessons, we appreciate childcare alternatives either on site or at home and truly look forward to their returning to the studio.

A Review of Parents and Lessons

(Geared to dealing with lessons, preparation and follow-up in the age range 3 to 12 years)

- 1) **Be Prepared:** Identify carry-along materials necessary for note taking--Suzuki Method Books, supplementary technique, reading books, etc. Assume responsibility for taking those materials with you. Visually check to ensure that you have the instrument. (Unless of course, a piano is involved.)
- 2) **Travel Time:** On the way to the lesson, ask your child leading questions about the lesson: what is he/she looking forward to, what needs more help, etc. This is a good way for students to focus on what happens next in the day rather than events that have already occurred.
- 3) **At TESSI:**
 - a) **Be present in the studio** before the end of the previous lesson: students and parents tend to move smoothly into their turn with the teacher because they are oriented to the environment.
 - b) **Take good notes;** include measure numbers in the printed score for accurate references. Be sure to note the goal for the assigned task, and any "practice makes permanent" techniques used by the teacher.
 - c) To avoid confusion at home, **review with the teacher**, in the child's presence to ensure tasks, goals and practice routines are clearly understood. Help your child pack up, and have him carry his book bag as well as the instrument. (You might be amazed to find that the child who is "too tired" to carry the instrument into the lesson, has the strength and stamina to carry it and the book bag after the lesson. Amazing what a lesson can do for self esteem, isn't it?)
- 4) **Travel Home:** After lessons, during travel, **ask your child** what the best part of the lesson was, what part is preparing for future work, and which part needs continuing polishing. The idea is to give your child an invitation to talk about the lesson experience. "Truth" and reality may have very little to do with this kind of downloading, but the true value is in your interest in hearing him talk, and his willingness to share.

Performance News

TESSI students **Hannah Bausch** (piano) and **Alexis Darnstaedt** (violin) performed *Oh Come Little Children* at their church, Epiphany Lutheran Church of All Saints on December 16th. Hannah also performed *Simple Gifts* in a duet with Emily Fink.

TESSI faculty member **Joyce Nelson** (violin) joined the choir and other instrumentalists during Christmas services at the Presbyterian Church of Le Sueur, Minnesota.

TESSI student **Daniel Cohen** (violin) regularly plays in services at his church, The Rock of Cape Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Daniel is a senior in high school this year and is looking forward to his freshmen year at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee where he was recently accepted.