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Contents

Welcome	1
Back to School	1
Using Our New Space	2
Parking Considerations	2
Tuition Reminders	2
Shake Rattle N' Roll?	2
Wiggles on the Road	3
October Recitals	3
December Recitals	3
Help for Parents	4
Calendar	4
Teacher Contact Info	4

Spring Has Sprung, Finally!

Welcome to the first issue of "In Touch at TESSI", your connection with TESSI teachers, other adults and students, and the arts community. "In Touch at TESSI" provides information about TESSI business: activities, resources, current events, with a dash of practical advice.

Well informed parents and students represent a significant resource when balanced in partnership with dedicated, trained teachers. Time, talent and imaginative creativity are all valuable assets which contribute to ongoing growth with students, parents, teachers and TESSI itself.

TESSI is fulfilling the need for local and regional families to have an additional choice in music education. From concept development through problem solving to the present, TESSI has had the benefit of wise advisors, generous supporters, and a dedicated student body.

As a lively, growing place, TESSI will continue to expand and enrich the music learning environment by providing hands-on classes through community outreach projects, expanded performance opportunities for students and volunteerism outlets for parents.

A heartfelt "thank you" to all of you for faith in the future, trust in leadership, and generosity of spirit and support as TESSI became a reality.

Back to School

Local Events

See inside for more info and events

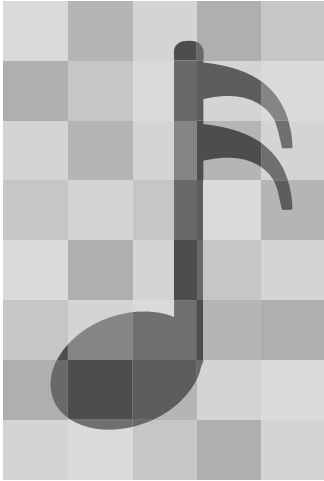
- ◆ **Klassics For Kids Concerts**
November 1st, 10am
December 6th, 10am
- ◆ **TESSI Recitals**
April 23rd, 1:30 & 3:00pm
June 11th, 1:30 & 3:00pm

Wow! What an exciting start to the 2005-2006 school year. From seeing familiar faces to hearing familiar sounds, we are so glad to welcome you all back into our studios, and to share our enjoyment of having our own school in a completely different environment.

We have all helped sort out where lost students (and parents, not to mention teachers!) can find everything they need, and ought to be. Now that everyone is oriented, we are welcoming new families who are eager to learn about TESSI.



Using Our New Space



We've noticed the willingness of parents to monitor their children, especially in the teaching studios. We love to be able to provide for overflow student space, and appreciate the respect shown for some very valuable equipment we each have in each studio. Thank you, parents and students!

How pleased we are to have a quiet place for students who know how to use their time wisely. This would be the well-used homework table in the kitchen.

We've also noticed how considerate students are by picking up after themselves, using the wastebaskets and putting the chairs back. Thank you!

We especially appreciate the quiet talk in halls and studios when people come and go. Thank you for adding your music to our new home - keep up the good work!

We would just like to ask that no food or drinks be brought into the teaching studios. The kitchen area is a suitable place for snacking by students or family members needing to refuel.

Parking Considerations

We are fortunate to have a reasonably good-sized parking area to use, but we do have to share it with the other tenants in the building, so there are times when it can be crowded or full, particularly on Thursdays during group class times. We would like to offer a few tips to help manage the congestion:

- ◆ If you are dropping off your child, park near the street to allow others who will be staying to get into a parking space.
- ◆ Please use only one parking space! There are no lines on the parking lot, so try to park as close to another vehicle as you can safely manage.
- ◆ If possible, double park behind a teacher or another family who will be leaving at the same or later time as you. Plan with others accordingly!

Tuition Reminders

A gentle reminder about tuition payments:

Tuition payments are due on the 15th of each month, and if they are received (or postmarked) after the 22nd, a \$10.00 late fee is automatically assessed. Tuition due dates are not affected by holidays, breaks, illnesses or other circumstances which alter attendance at or scheduling of lessons. If you will not be able to drop your payment at TESSI, please pay early, or mail it in.

With the above in mind, don't forget that a payment will be due December 15th, whether winter break has commenced or not.

Questions regarding your tuition account can be directed to Alyce Ward or to your private teacher.

Shake, Rattle N' Roll Anyone?

Give the gift of music to a young child this holiday season. TESSI will have order forms for rhythm instruments, drums, shaker eggs, etc. as used in Wiggles N' Tunes® classes available in the near future. Keep an eye out for further information to be posted at TESSI. We will also be taking orders for tee shirts and tote bags with our school logo on them. More information coming soon.

Do You Know

*...Most Japanese
Suzuki students
complete all of the
books in the different
instrumental schools
by the time they enter
junior high?*

Wiggles N' Tunes® on the Road, and at Home

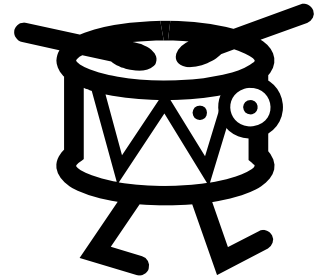
Wiggles N' Tunes® instructor Alyce Ward is happy to announce the addition of another preschool to her traveling itinerary. Alice Wright Preschool has recently begun including bi-weekly Wiggles classes as part of its curriculum.

Teacher Alyce has been doing weekly classes at the Presbyterian Child Development Center Daycare for quite some time now, and she is excited to be able to reach out to growing numbers of young children just beginning what we all hope will be a lifelong love of music.

At present, Teacher Alyce presents five Wiggles classes at TESSI each week, in addition to her preschool visits.

Wiggles N' Tunes® is fun, educational, and a great way to get children ages 8 months to 4 years started in music, and sets the stage for beginning study of an instrument when the child has outgrown Wiggles classes and is ready to move up to private lessons.

Spread the word about Wiggles!



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS:

Order forms for rhythm instruments and clothing items will be available soon.

February 19th Recitals at Carbondale Civic Center

Thank you to everyone who attended the TESSI recitals on February 19th, 2006 at the Carbondale Civic Center.

The turnout was very good with over twenty performers at each recital, and nearly all the available seating filled.

The recital programs included varied selections of solo piano, violin and guitar works performed by students at all levels of advancement and age from beginners playing Twinkle variations to upper book level students performing concerto and sonata movements.

Thanks to everyone for all the positive

feedback, and particularly for heaping praise on those who deserved it most - the performers!

Our assessment of the Civic Center as a recital venue:

The piano is very well maintained, the location is convenient, and the facilities are adequate for these events. However, there may be better possibilities, and we are looking into other locations for future recitals.

We welcome any comments and ideas you may have on this subject, so please don't hesitate to share them with us!

April 23rd Recitals at Carbondale Civic Center

The next scheduled TESSI recitals will take place on April 23rd at 1:30 and 3:00 pm, again at the Carbondale Civic Center, Room 108.

Recital Times:

- ◆ 1:15 pm - tuning
- ◆ 1:30 pm - performance begins
- ◆ 2:45 pm - tuning
- ◆ 3:00 pm - performance begins

The programs will feature both solo and ensemble performances.

Students (and parents) should consult with their teacher as soon as possible regarding recital time assignments and repertoire. Teachers will need to have this information compiled for the printed program deadline of April 9th.

Do You Know

...ideally, listening two books ahead helps accelerate leaning?

...why review is such an integral part of the Suzuki method?

Help for Parents - Parent Preparatory Class

Do You Know

...Parents in Japan must teach their children how to read and write in all three of the Japanese writing systems? (The schools do not teach these subjects!)

- ◆ Wish you knew better, new ways to help your child as “assistant teacher”?
- ◆ Have another child in the family asking “When can I have lessons too?”

Well, help is available right here, right now. It’s Parent Preparatory Class, which meets every week on Mondays from 6:15 - 7:00 pm in the violin studio, with Joyce Nelson leading the discussion. Come gain new insights, valuable background principles and creative ways to add to your home lessons, in an adult environment.

This opportunity is available to all of our currently enrolled student families, tuition free. It’s our way of giving you a “Thank You” gift for helping make TESSI a reality.) Come to one or the whole series - it’s yours for the fun of it, join us!

Calendar

- ◆ Tuesday, November 1st Klassics for Kids Concert
10:00am, Altgeld Hall Room 112, SIUC
- ◆ Saturday, April 15th Tuition payment due
\$10.00 late fee assessed after 4/22
- ◆ Sunday, April 23rd TESSI Recitals
1:30 and 3:00 pm, Carbondale Civic Center, Room 108
- ◆ Tuesday, May 2nd Klassics for Kids Concert
10:00am, Altgeld Hall Room 112, SIUC
- ◆ Sunday, May 7th Gold Cup Recitals
Locations and times TBA
- ◆ Monday, May 15th Tuition payment due
\$10.00 late fee assessed after 5/22
- ◆ Sunday, June 11th TESSI Recitals
1:30 and 3:00 pm, Carbondale Civic Center, Room 108

For more information about Klassics for Kids:

Phone: 618-536-8742
E-mail: kbenyas@mac.com



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We're on the Web!

(Well, sort of, we're still working on it!)

www.tessimusic.org

Teacher Contact Info

Joyce Nelson: Violin, Parent Prep	618-457-6300 ext.1# No e-mail at this time
Alyce Ward: Piano, Wiggles N' Tunes®	618-457-6300 ext.2# award@tessimusic.org
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