



TESSI Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2007

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

QUICK CALENDAR:

2/6/07 **Klassics for Kids**

10:00 a.m. Altgeld 112

2/15/07 **Tuition Due**

\$10 late fee as of 2/23

2/18/07 **Recitals**

Sunday, 1:30 & 3:00 p.m.

Carbondale Civic Center

2/24/07 **Junior Festival**

See teacher for schedule

2/25/07 **Junior Festival**

See teacher for schedule

3/6/07 **Klassics for Kids**

10:00 a.m. Altgeld 112

WELCOME!!

Sophia Aaflaq – our newest TESSI piano student and a continuing Wiggler, along with younger brother Thomas, who is also Wigglin' up a storm!

JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Joyce Nelson, Violin Faculty, has been asked to adjudicate Junior Festival string players (violin, viola, cello) Feb. 24th.

"I always enjoy hearing the students and writing nice bits about their playing. I also am happy to see TESSI students at the festival, and encourage them to do their best. GAMBATE, everyone!"

Brrr...Cough...Sneeze



Winter is in full swing bringing below-freezing temperatures, slippery conditions, and very low humidity.

If that isn't enough, contagious viruses are alive, well and flourishing.

While we believe in consistency in lesson attendance, it would be inconsiderate of us to continue to teach if we were unwell. Not only would we be exposing all of the students and parents to our illness, but lesson quality would suffer.

Students who are too sick to attend school are too sick to have a lesson, for the same reasons – contagion and lesson quality.

Please consider these issues for the children's sakes: Stay home, get well and come back ready to have a good lesson.

Holidays, Vacations and Calendars



Our regrets to anyone who happened to come to lessons before lessons resumed after the holidays.

We rely on you to keep current, take notes and save yourselves inconvenience by watching for schedule information: posted signs, e-mails, voice-mail messages, studio display areas, and face to face conversations.

By and large, schedule information procedures are effective; when you're unsure you call us and you're doing well. But if you have any ideas that would improve our communications--especially about holiday/vacation times, please share with us. *TESSI Faculty*

Junior Festival Reminders

The performance dates for the NFMC Junior Festival are Saturday, Feb. 24th and Sunday, Feb. 25th. The event will be held on the SIUC campus in Altgeld Hall and the Old Baptist Foundation building. If you are participating, your teacher will let you know your times and room numbers as soon as the final schedules are issued. **Make sure you have a purchased, original score for each piece with you at your performance.** You will not be allowed to perform without them. (And, *don't forget to number the measures in pencil!*)

Best of luck to all participants!!!

SPEAKING OF HUMIDITY...

Instruments need extra care during Winter: low humidity shrinks wood, opens cracks, loosens tuning pegs, and can break strings. All of the violins, guitars and pianos suffer from low humidity: Out of tune, sluggish response to retuning rattles from seam shrinkage, loosened joints, etc.

The number one solution for preventing and fixing these conditions is keeping the humidity high (40-60% does the trick in most cases). For instruments which travel with you, keep them in the passenger compartment of your car and take them inside with you when running errands.

Save tuning time and money and protect your investment - turn up the humidity!

Congratulations!!

Megan Wood, piano, was one of forty contestants who performed on January 20th at the Illinois Assoc. of Agriculture Fairs event in Springfield, IL.

Megan earned her spot in the contest by winning her division in the Williamson County Talent Contest held during HerrinFesta Italiana last summer.

Word has it that she played beautifully. Kudos, Megan!

Jorge Lightfoot, guitar, and **Benjamin Mendez**, piano, who were among thirty-nine CCHS students named **Illinois State Scholars** by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. And they manage to find time to practice, too!!

Jayci Noble, piano, who earned 1st place out of eighteen competitors for grades 7-12 in the Heartland Christian Conference annual music competition.

Anthony Stoecker, violin/piano who won the 2006 U.S. Martial Arts Team Alliance national points championship in the 9-year-old age bracket.

TESSI

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On Time and On Track

You've heard the phrase "*come early, stay late*", have you? Well, here is a different "helpful to the teacher" benefit to us all: Keeping lessons STARTING and finishing on time.

We have been trained to work with the attention span of the student in lessons. That attention span doesn't always (in fact, frequently does not) co-ordinate with the clock, and we are not all clock watchers. **If you come into the studio to observe the student before your lesson time we can:**

- Be aware of your presence
- Know you are eager for your turn
- Move smoothly from one student to the next by overlapping a bit
- Respect the time you have scheduled with us

Please consider this point carefully in the weeks ahead. Thank you!

Your Teachers

Money Security Alert!!

We don't have color codes to alert you about security, but we think you should know about your hard earned money and tuition payment security.

On Site Collection Box:

Occasionally tuition payments drop down behind the box and get stuck there.

Mail In:

Occasionally we do not receive it. (this is very rare)

Exterior Literature Box:

Tuition payments left there have disappeared.

All of these situations have arisen at one time or another, resulting in late fees, canceled check fees, unexplained mysteries, bookkeeping woes, confused parents and teachers' time trying to problem solve.

#1 Best Method – (Inside)

Be sure that the payment is in the tuition box, not poking up out of the slot.

#2 Best Method – (Outside)

Mail it in, postmarked by no later than the 22nd. *Earlier is better* :)

#1 Worst Method – (Outside)

Put it in the literature display box by the front door. *We won't see it.*

#1 Less Desirable Method

Give it to your child to deliver. *Sometimes, things get lost...*

#2 Less Desirable Method

Give it to your teacher. *We are off in music land with the students. (see point directly above)*

To summarize, **the best way to insure we receive and record your payment promptly is to place it in the tuition payment box yourself, or to mail it in.** Use your best discretion when sending payments with your children. Teachers can accept payments directly, but the tuition box is more efficient. The collector can update all the payment charts at one time. *Just thought you'd like to know...*

