

Mountlake Terrace Bands

Jazz Ensembles

Concert Bands

Pep Band

Percussion Ensemble

NEWSLETTER

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**Pep Band
this Friday!**

**Disney Payment
DUE Thursday!**

Thank You

Great job at the Nutcracker performances this last weekend everyone. Thanks for all your work leading up to them and for the intensity you brought to performing each night. The project definitely transformed Chamber Winds into a different ensemble. More sectionals happened in preparation for the concert than I've seen in a long time...maybe ever. I feel as if band members started to get a real sense of the hard work that it takes to accomplish something big and significant. We also set a goal at the recommendation of a band member to try to be "performance ready" one week ahead of the gig and we did a countdown to the Friday before the concert. We recorded in class that day to make it more of a performance. I'm looking forward to our next projects!

I also enjoyed the Breakfast with Santa performances of Jazz 2 and Symphonic Band. I only passed out those holiday songs to Jazz 2 on Monday of last week so they did a pretty good job of learning the music quickly. Symphonic Band is making great progress in their sight-reading, ensemble sound, and endurance. I'm looking forward to delving into more challenging and sophisticated literature. Our fall has been mostly full of pep band music and carols.

And thank you to everyone who helped set-up and/or tear down for our events. It was MUCH better than we have been doing and I'm very thankful for that. Dave Dolacky, theater manager, said it was the best tear down on Saturday night that he has seen from us. I was talking to a former band parent and the kids just took care of it. Thank you!

I wish you all a great break. Make sure you play your instruments while we are not in school! Play for your family and friends as you see them. Bringing joy to others through out music is one of the reasons we do it! Take advantage of it - you know they would like to hear you!

Upcoming Events

- The Pep Band schedule has been updated for Basketball season. Please check the band calendar for those dates. Remember, students need to attend 5 basketball games during the season, not including playoff games.
- First Pep Band game is this Friday!

MTHS Student Profile - Ryan Leppich

Sherrill Leppich, Music Booster President, is helping to interview current students for this newsletter as a way of helping us all get to know each other. Thanks Sherrill!

Ryan Leppich is a junior at MTHS. Ryan is the drummer for the Jazz 1 Ensemble, and also performs with the Percussion group and the drum line. Ryan attended Hilltop Elementary and Brier Middle School, prior to joining Mountlake Terrace High School. At Hilltop Elementary, in 5th grade, Ryan was introduced to the band program and initially was interested in playing the Trombone. He played this instrument for about a year. During one school year, the MTHS Jazz group, at that time, came to his school to perform. After watching their performance and seeing how much fun they seemed to have, his interest was sparked in the playing the drums. He then started taking drum lessons and began his career as a drummer.

When Ryan was in middle school, he was under the direction of Mrs. Zumbo. He was taking lessons at that time from 4x4 Music, but Mrs. Zumbo gave him the name of a local private drum teacher and he decided to give it a try. He still continues to take lessons from this teacher today and continues to learn and develop his skills as a drummer.

Ryan's family consists of his mom, dad and two sisters, who are both married, and a nephew. Both his sisters and his brother-in-laws attended Mountlake Terrace High School. His sister, Lauren, played flute when in middle school, and his brother-in-law, Stephen Keehr, was in Jazz 1 during his time at MTHS and played the trumpet. Ryan's dad, Tom, played the saxophone when he was a young adult, but just for fun, not in a band.

For Ryan, his favorite highlights in his musical career, to date, is his trip to New York and the Essentially Ellington Competition that MTHS Jazz 1 attended, while in his freshman year. It was a very exciting and eye opening experience. While at Essentially Ellington, Ryan won an award for outstanding soloist and outstanding performance as part of the MTHS Rhythm section. While at Essentially Ellington, Ryan was introduced to Jeff Hamilton, a well known jazz drummer, co-director of the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and leader of his own trio. Jeff has mentored Ryan on many occasions to help further his career as a drummer.

In his down time, Ryan enjoys listening to Straight Ahead Jazz, likes watching comedy or historical non-fiction movies, hanging out with friends and loves Italian food. He plans to attend college after graduation from high school and is interested in North Colorado University, USC or Manhattan School of Music. Ryan's future goal is to be a professional drummer.

When asked what is one thing he enjoys about being part of the MTHS Band program, Ryan replied, "Music has given me some of my best friends. It also has shown me how to focus, and to give attention and dedication to what I want to accomplish."



MTHS MUSIC BOOSTERS NEWS

December 15, 2013

THANK YOU~!!

WOW~! WHAT A GREAT MONTH IT HAS BEEN IN THE BAND DEPARTMENT. Just wanted to say thank you to each and everyone who attended, volunteered, helped prepare or performed at the Annual Santa Breakfast and for the band Nutcracker performances.

The annual MTHS Music Booster Santa Breakfast is the one and only fundraiser that the MTHS Music Boosters puts together to help raise funds to keep the music boosters non-profit going. As with most organizations, the music boosters need to raise funds to help pay for costs to keep the boosters up to date and continue to thrive. We appreciate all the parents and students that stepped up and helped to volunteer for this fundraiser. We thank Mr. Faul and the band kids who performed as well. The Symphonic Band and the Jazz 2 Ensemble sounded terrific and the music was so very festive!!!

On Friday and Saturday the Chamber Winds and Jazz 1 Ensemble performed a classical and jazz version of the Nutcracker Suite. If you missed the opportunity to attend this concert, you missed a great performance!!! From beginning to end, both nights, the MTHS band students talents shined through! It was simply AMAZING~!! It was an outstanding performance leaving many concert attendees wanting more. Great job everyone!!!

These events couldn't have gone together and been the success that they were without all the volunteers that helped. Pat yourselves on the back for a job well done!

And a HUGE THANK YOU to Mr. Faul for his continued hard work and planning of these performances, past and future. Without Mr. Faul's expertise, constant dedication and guidance that he gives our students, they wouldn't be the great performers they are striving to be. Thank you, Mr. Faul, for ALL that you do~!!

Happy Holidays-!!!!

Sherrill Leppich
MTHS Music Boosters President