

Mountlake Terrace Bands

Jazz Ensembles

Concert Bands

Pep Band

Percussion Ensemble

NEWSLETTER

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Week of December 9th

In This Issue:

Reflection
Upcoming Events
Music Booster Information

**Sell those tickets!!!
Nutcracker Concerts**

**Breakfast with
Santa on Saturday!**

**There are several pages to this Newsletter.
Please look all the way to the end.**

Reflection

We had another great week this last week.

Percussion Ensemble is going great - we practice music for just percussion and learn the music for the concert bands. We are able to do much more difficult literature as a result of the special time. One of the things we do during class now is have some individual practice time. The time is spent on those instruments that students don't have access to outside of class such as Timpani, Crash Cymbals, Bells, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Congas, and multiple toms. Students are also working out of a curriculum called "All Hands" which is an individually paced and sequenced curriculum that covers snare, timpani, mallets, auxiliary percussion, hand drums, drumset, and body coordination. Additionally, we still work on Drumline music and will be performing at the assembly this Friday.

In **Symphonic Band** we started working in small groups as part of our preparation for our upcoming performance at the Breakfast With Santa. We will play as a large group, but "chamber music," which is small groups playing without a conductor is a wonderful way to develop independence and confidence. Students rehearse themselves, problem solve, help each other, and get to make all of the musical decisions. Additionally, we worked on learning the key of C and to help with that we composed a melody as a group and as individuals. Another day we improvised in the key of C. I also introduced them to a program called GarageBand for writing music.

Jazz Ensemble 2 is working for their performance at the Breakfast with Santa this coming Saturday. We also started on a new arrangement of a classic Buddy Rich tune called Big Swing Face. It is allowing us to explore his music and band a little and we are still working on playing the blues in this new context. We also worked on the key of C and had the Rhythm Section learn to play a ii V I progression in the key. The horns learned major and minor blues scales and used them to improvise. The more they do this at home the better they will get.

Jazz Ensemble 1 and **Chamber Winds** are busy preparing for the Nutcracker Concerts this Friday and Saturday. It is quite an undertaking but very rewarding. Students are having to work very hard to learn this difficult music by two of the best composers the world has ever known. An added challenge is that the music is so familiar to everyone - they have to play in such a way as to live up to the expectations of the audience. Well...beyond expectations for what some expect from "just a high school" and really play all of the music at a professional level.

Jazz 1 and Chamber Winds students went to the Pacific Northwest Ballet performance of the Nutcracker on Sunday. What an amazing time we had! The show was fantastic, of course. And

afterwards we were lead in a backstage tour by Lucy Schermer's dad Steve (who plays bass in the orchestra) and one of his friends who is a stage hand. [Interesting side note: Steve has played the Nutcracker for 24 years which is over 900 shows!] During the tour students were able to see the sets up close - some got into the Peacock's cage, climbed on the boat, and got to sit on Clara's bed. We also visited the pit. It was fantastic!

We had a special visit with Justin DiCciocio this last Friday and Saturday. The work he did with your students was amazing. Some of you may be familiar with the show FAME that was on TV and made into a movie...and maybe remade? Justin started the jazz program at the school that the show was modeled after. He is currently the director of jazz studies at the Manhattan School of Music. My only disappointment is that more students didn't attend to watch. We had a few Jazz 2 students but many more would have benefitted. It was an amazing workshop. Rehearsal today was great!

Like I said, what an amazing week full of educational opportunities, work with professionals, and creative in-class work. And as I write this, students are in the band room sectionalizing on the music for this weekend: students working together to prepare to bring their highest quality of work in front of a live audience.

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.
- Nutcracker Concerts - December 13th and 14th at 7pm. This will be a great night of music in our Theater when Chamber Winds and Jazz Ensemble 1 alternate between Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and Duke Ellington's Jazz Nutcracker. Don't forget that we have a dress rehearsal on the 12th from 5-9pm.
- Breakfast with Santa - December 14th from 8am-12noon. Santa will be there for Photo Ops as will many performing groups from our district and school. It is super fun and breakfast is served.



MTHS NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE

Classical & Jazz versions
of the Nutcracker
Performed by
MTHS Jazz Ensemble 1
and Chamber Winds

Friday, December 13th &
Saturday, December 14th
7:00 p.m.

Pre-Sale tickets \$5.00
or \$7.00 at the door

Mountlake Terrace High School Theater
21801 44th Ave West, Mountlake Terrace
Information or Ticket purchases
contact 425-478-1989 or
email: mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com

Profile

We have been so busy with our many projects Sherrill and I didn't have time to do profiles this week. So I decided to share a little bit about myself. We will call this "Get To Know Your Teacher."

I was born in the South. That's right, Tacoma Washington, the heart of Pierce County. My parents moved to Tacoma from Harvey, North Dakota after they were married because my dad had a job offer at a printing company. These were the beginning of the days when people only left North Dakota, they never moved there. Their little town of 2500 was always shrinking. However, these days, ND is booming because of oil and they don't have enough of anything for the massive influx of workers. My parents' town is not close enough to have seen the impacts of the oil industry but those who are close enough are glad the economy has turned around and at the same time long for the days of leaving your house unlocked and the keys in the car.

I spent a good part of each summer in Harvey. We would go for three weeks every year to visit relatives. It seemed like we never went anywhere cool - always to Harvey where we would be bored for 3 weeks. Never Disneyland or...well, that was where I wanted to go! In hindsight, it wasn't all bad. I spent time on the farm with my grandparents (until they moved to town) playing games and lots of cards. I learned to drive on the country roads. My grandma, who turned 100 last February, and most of my other relatives still live there but I've always been thankful that my parents left.

My dad worked at the newspaper in Harvey, The Harvey Herald, and my mom worked in a corner store. My dad got the job offer in Tacoma because of some relatives he had who were living in Tacoma. He and my mom at ages 21 and 19, respectively, picked-up and moved half way across the country. Neither went to college. My dad went to work and a short while after that they started a family.

I'm the youngest of 3 boys. When my oldest brother was in 6th grade he started playing trombone (my mom's instrument) in band. And he paid attention to his band director, Mr. Williams. As a result, he was able to teach me to play by Dad's old trumpet when I was in Kindergarten. I remember that I could play pretty well although I would go for months, even years without practicing. So when I started band in 6th grade, I could already play. My other brother also played in band. He played the drums and was really into drumset and heavy metal. So I also had that influence going on in my life. His friends would come over and rock out in his bedroom. Maybe because I was inspired or maybe because I couldn't hear the TV, I would go and watch and hang out. When he and his friends left to go do something else sometimes they would leave their guitars out. I started playing and after a little while I got my own guitar in fifth grade. This is also when I started growing my hair long. It was a decent length when I went to my first rock concert in 6th grade: Van Halen with David Lee Roth. It was their last tour as the original band. I went with my friend and his mom to the Seattle Coliseum for the show. It was...awesome!

It was kind of an interesting place to grow up. Most of my elementary classmates went through middle school and high school together. We were a pretty close knit community. And we all kind of did everything together: we all played sports and music and were involved in school, too. The education system was not that great and although I had some good teachers I had quite a few who were pretty mediocre. I often thought about how I would do things differently if I was the teacher, but I didn't see myself becoming one. My first band director was Mr. Williams and he was fantastic. My community was a very homogenous, white, lower middle class area. There were only a few non-white students in my entire school experience. People weren't publically racist because that was impolite. But they were privately racist. Mr. Williams was black and he had a big influence on me not just as a band director but as a person. He loved music and loved what he did. Later, he was my high school jazz band director. A few years ago he saw the MTHS band on PBS for a program called "Jazz Alive" and sent me a letter saying he has seen it. What a guy...

Another big influence was my elementary music teacher, Mr. Asplund. I still remember being in his class. I remember what we did and I remember how I felt in there. I remember that he could play piano AND guitar AND sing and music was so fun. I don't think I was unique - we all loved him and loved music class. We danced, sang, played Orff instruments, played games. It was...awesome!
(to be continued in the next newsletter)

MTHS MUSIC BOOSTERS NEWS

* UPCOMING EVENTS *

Saturday, December 14th **Annual Santa Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Come to our annual MTHS Music Booster Santa Breakfast this Saturday, December 14th and support our Music Boosters! Fun to be had by all! Group performances by local schools and many MTHS groups, Santa Breakfast, Santa Photos and Crafters!

We could still use a few students to help throughout this event. Please contact me as soon as possible if you can extend a helping hand to make this another wonderful holiday event.

- We will need helping hands for clean up as well. The more hands, the faster it goes. The Jazz 2 Ensemble and Symphonic bands will also be performing at the Santa Breakfast this year~!

NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCES **Friday, Dec. 13th & Saturday, Dec. 14th** **7:00 p.m.**

***** TICKETS ON SALE NOW *** - BUY THEM TODAY-Don't Delay!!!!**

On **Friday, December 13th** and **Saturday, December 14th**, our very own MTHS Jazz 1 Ensemble and Chamber Winds band will perform the music from the Nutcracker. This has been a very well attended event in the past and helps get you in the holiday spirit! **Tickets are only \$5.00** purchased ahead of time, or **\$7.00 at the door!** We ask that ALL our band families attend one of the performances and help support our band programs. This is another performance you don't want to miss out. If you want to purchase your tickets ahead of time, please contact Sherrill Leppich at 425-478-1989 or email to mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com. What a great way to celebrate the holidays AND support the band program at the same time!!! Another win-win for everyone!

We could use some helping hands at the Nutcracker performances as well. If you are available to help before the concerts begin, please let me know. We will also need helping hands on Saturday, after the performance, to help with clean up and putting equipment away.

POINSETTIA SALES EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS~!!!

Just a quick update on our Band Program poinsettia sale fundraiser.

All plants were delivered on Saturday, December 7th ! Thank you for participating and supporting the band program by joining us with this fundraiser. We sold 430 poinsettias for the band program alone!! That is quite a bit more than last year, so way to go! There were additional poinsettias ordered that will be for sale at the Nutcracker performances and at Santa Breakfast, so if you were not able to purchase your poinsettia ahead of time, you still have a chance to make a purchase this weekend and still support our band program, our musical students and Mr. Faul~!!!

Sherrill Leppich
MTHS Music Booster
President
425-478-1989
mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com

MTHS Nutcracker Ticket Sales

Attached is the ticket sales form for selling tickets to the MTHS Nutcracker performance for both Friday, 12/13 and Saturday, 12/14. Students are required to sell at least 6 tickets total. If you can sell more than that, that would be fantastic.

This is a wonderful performance that will put everyone in the holiday spirit. We would love to have a full house each night, but need your help in getting tickets sold. Please sell 6 tickets, and mark the names of those purchasing the tickets on the attached form, and also collect their money. Tickets are only \$5.00!

After collecting your sales for tickets sold, and marking the form for the name and night each purchaser wants tickets for, please return the form, and the payments, in an envelope, marked attention to Sherrill Leppich/Nutcracker tickets.

If you need more ticket sales forms or have any questions, please contact Sherrill Leppich at 425-478-1989 or email to mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com.

Student Name: _____

MTHS Nutcracker 2013
Ticket Sales Form

Name of Purchaser/Phone	Friday, 12/13 Performance	# of Tickets	Sat., 12/14 Performance	# of tickets	Paid	Cash/Check #
1./						
2./						
3./						
4./						
5./						
6./						
7./						
8./						
9./						
10./						