

# Mountlake Terrace Bands

Jazz Ensembles

Concert Bands

Pep Band

Percussion Ensemble

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## NEWSLETTER

### Week of March 3rd

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#### Important Information

##### **Basketball Playoffs**

Both girls and boys teams lost this last weekend so there will be no more pep band games this year.

##### **Disneyland Trip Payment**

The next Disney payment is due on February 28th.

##### **Jazz 1 at Newport HS Jazz Festival**

Jazz 1 will be attending the Newport HS Jazz Festival on March 15th. Please look for more details about the day that will be coming soon.

##### **Fundraiser Event Meeting - March 10th**

This meeting has been cancelled.

##### **Disney Spot Available - Update**

We found a replacement. Jessica Bride will be joining us. Yay Jessica!

**From Mr. Faul** - I put this in the program last week. It's kind of long, but I think it is worth taking a look if you haven't already.

Welcome to the concert tonight and thank you for coming! We don't have an intermission tonight but we do have some down time so I thought I would give you something to read!

I'm all fired up! There are AMAZING things happening in class every day - and often not what we predict will happen. As a part of rehearsing music and trying to make it as good and as deep and as meaningful as possible, we encounter things that most people probably have no idea we encounter in a high school band class. And it happens all the time!!!

I value the students' time. I know that everyone one of my students has chosen to be in the class. It is an "elective" or a "selective," if you prefer. Students choose to be there and they can choose to not be there. As a result, I feel a certain drive to provide the "customer" with value - with a return on their investment that is worth the time and energy that it put in. Or...value that often far

exceeds the time and energy put it.

I believe every day has the potential to be transformative for each and every student. That is the place I am coming from and that opportunity for growth and learning and expression and discovery is present in every band class every single day. Sometimes students are ready and primed for the things we encounter and can really get a lot out of it. And other times they may not be - who knows what happened before class, or last night to distract them from the present moment and the potential that it holds? But the opportunity is there. And when they are able to be present and engage with the concepts we are dealing with magical things happen.

It is not an easy task, or one without frustration and surprise. Imagine a room full of high school students and the variety of things that are going on in their worlds on any particular day. It is astounding. And again, most people don't know the half of what is going on in the lives of our students: the struggles, the challenges, the pressure, the stress, the confusion, etc.

Why am I talking about all of this? Because I want you to know that I am the best teacher your student has ever had or will ever have. What??!?!?! That's the kind of difference I want to make. At least, I WANT to be THAT teacher. That is what I strive for, often fall short of, but always where my intentions are. I'm invested in your kid's education. Their whole education, not just music. I'm invested in their future, but also their present and their current well-being. In a normal work week, I probably spend more time with your children engaged in meaningful activities than some of you get to do. I take that seriously.

Having set the stage, let me get to the point of all of this if you are still reading. There is a great deal of confusion out there about college, getting into college, what colleges want, etc. I'll go even further and say that it's not just confusion, it is misinformation. As you are working with your student on their plans for the future please make sure you have good and accurate information. Do you really know first hand what the potential college admission expectations are? Is what you are being told accurate? There are a lot of good intentioned people with a narrow view of what it means to be a good applicant for the college of your choice. Please do some research. I've never had even one student in my 16 years whose music participation hurt them in their applying for college. (In other words, by taking music, and not some "other thing" they were denied what they wanted.) The opposite is true, actually. Dozens of students (that I know of) had improved applications and admissions because of their music participation and sometimes solely because of it.

Also, I'm encountering more and more students (and parents) who are very, very focused on the future. That is great...to an extent. Of course, we want kids who are successful financially and happy in life. That is one of the goals. However, NOW also matters. And if kids are spending so much time worrying about what colleges might want that they eliminate any balance from their lives in the present moment, that is a problem. And that is what I'm seeing. "I have to quit band to take 3 years of world language so I look better to the college admissions" is a great example I've heard countless times this week alone. And it is simply NOT true. Please do the research.

I'm all fired up and when that happens I guess I can't help but soap box a little. What we do, in band, has tremendous value. It is immeasurable and also extremely hard to articulate to other people. So, I let other folks who don't have the appearance of bias that I have make the case. Consider the following, especially those of you who have a tendency toward a narrow, specialized focus as a means for attaining career goals.

from Bill Buxton, a principle Microsoft researcher:

"...look at the c.v. of the Nobel Prize winners of your choice. The vast majority of them have had near professional competence in a discipline other than that for which they won the prize, and those disciplines are ones that are being cut or discounted in the school system, ironically, in an attempt to make more people like them. But the clowns who go blindly down that road have never asked a Nobel Prize winner, much less gotten their perspective on the topic. A good friend is Harry (Sir Harold) Kroto, who won the prize for his contribution to discovering nanotubes (a.k.a. Bucky Balls,

Fullerenes, ...). He is an exhibiting graphic artist, who happens to be a brilliant chemist.

And to those very same people who want to make their kids into really competent little computer scientists, just suggest that they look at the profile of the computer scientists who have won the Turing Award, or who are Fellows of the ACM. They will find that one of the most common traits of said super-stars of our field – besides being computer scientists – is the prevalence of high musical competence. Technically super competent technical people are a dime a dozen. If you can't find them here, you can find them in any number of schools in Asia. Why even try to join that race, rather than cultivate a rounded and rich base of experience? After all, technology is not about technology any more. It is a cultural endeavor, and those without a solid cultural, creative, and human grounding are simply going to be the drones of the future. Important, but not leading. The most important transition in technology is not the technology itself, but who is using it, where, how, with whom, why, ... The age of the nerd driving the agenda is over, and the those parents are missing the point, and it is their children who are going to suffer.”

From a past issue of Spectrum published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

“Music resounds at MIT. Eighty percent of this year’s incoming class participated in the arts in high school, while 69 percent arrived at MIT with musical training. This year, nearly 1,900 students enrolled in music and theater arts courses. In fact, music is the fifth most popular of the Institute’s 42 minors. More students minor in music than in energy.”

Most of us are familiar with the abundant research regarding the side benefits of music making, but frankly I’m tired of music being looked at as something that is in the service of other, more important or more valued things. It is not about that. Music making is important for humans regardless of any other “extra-musical” benefits that may be there. It is soul-enriching, life-enriching, relationship-enriching. It teaches us about ourselves and connects us to others. It moves our spirit. It renders us speechless. It does that now, in high school band every day, and it will continue to do that for us throughout our lives if we allow it. Making music may be the most important thing your child does every day because of what it offers them in terms of what it means to be a human on this planet. It is not a distraction from other courses, other things, etc. It is a concrete example of what many people may list as actually being the goal of living a quality life: be present in the moment, interact with others in a meaningful way, serve something bigger than yourself, get to know yourself, find your voice and unique contribution, reflect, think, feel.

## **MTHS Student Profile - Lucy Schermer**

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!

This weeks profile is on Senior MTHS Student, Lucy Schermer. Lucy is a very talented and wonderful flutist and is in both the Chamber Winds band and the MTHS Jazz 1 band. The Schermer family has resided in Brier since 2000, and Lucy’s family includes her older brother, Henry, her younger brother, Sam and her parents, Margaret and Steve Schermer.

Lucy comes from a very musical family. Her father, Steve, plays the upright bass and has been performing with the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra for 24 years. Both her parents have been great supporters of the MTHS band program and Steve has assisted Mr. Faul with the concert bands, most recently just before our Nutcracker Performance last December. Mr. Schermer was a wealth of information and was a great source to help our concert band prepare for the Nutcracker concert at MTHS. Lucy’s mother, Margaret, played the violin and the trumpet when she was in school, her brother Henry plays piano and her little brother, Sam, has played the violin, the trumpet, and most recently the drums. A very musical family indeed!!

Lucy is extremely talented in her craft as a flutist. She has won many awards and has gone to state competitions over the years. She says she always has areas to improve on and keep growing and looks forward to always having a challenge to better herself. Her most recent favorite highlight is when she won a contest to be able to perform with the Seattle Symphony. Students who were interested in this had to play in front of a panel, who ultimately decided that Lucy was the perfect choice to have the opportunity to perform with the Seattle Symphony. We are all so very proud of all her accomplishments!

Some fun facts about Lucy is that she likes to listen to Blue Grass and Folk music, likes to watch scary horror movies, loves to read just about any style book and really likes tacos! Lucy has a very, very busy life and doesn't have a lot of down time, but when she does, she enjoys learning to play the banjo, which she is teaching herself, and hopes to take lessons as well, this summer. Lucy's family also likes to go camping during the summer months and Lucy looks forward to this every year.

After graduation this June from MTHS, Lucy is hoping to continue her education to better her career. She has already auditioned for The University of Ducane, Eastman School of Music and Peabody Institute. Ducane has already offered her a spot at their school. Lucy has many more colleges that she will be auditioning for still, one being Curtis Institute of Philadelphia and this would be her first choice for colleges if they offer her a spot. Good luck, Lucy, we know you will do well wherever you go!



***KEEP READING!!***

***There is lots of important information on the following pages!***

# MTHS MUSIC BOOSTERS NEWS

## MARCH 3rd, 2014

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Greetings to all~!

Well, March has snuck in and we still have many great events and trips coming up throughout this month. If there are any parents who would like to chaperone a trip to SKMEA in Edmonds, we could still use a few more adults. If you are interested, please contact Sherrill Leppich at [mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com](mailto:mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com) or Kara Oberstadt at [mikeober@frontier.com](mailto:mikeober@frontier.com) as soon as possible. Also, be sure that you have filled out and turned in the forms at the school front office that need to be completed before you are eligible to chaperone any trips.

The chamber winds concert band travels to CWU this Friday, 3/7/14. Bus arrives at school at 7:15 a.m., leaving at 7:30 a.m. Please be sure to arrive at school in your concert attire, bring lunch or lunch money, and money for dinner. Watch for an additional email to follow with more details of this great opportunity to perform at the CWU band festival.

One more quick reminder, here are the upcoming trips and students need to turn in their permission slips ASAP. We still have a handful of students who have not turned permission slips in and need this done in order for you to attend:

Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Chamber Winds students going to CWU Concert Band Festival

Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Chamber Winds to SKMEA in Edmonds

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Symphonic Band to SKMEA in Edmonds.

\*\* If you are unsure if your have filled out and turned in a permission slip for these trips, please contact Kara Oberstadt at [mikeober@frontier.com](mailto:mikeober@frontier.com) and see if you still need one turned in.

### **\*\* UPDATE \*\* MTHS Band Silent Auction – Parent Meeting**

The meeting for the MTHS Band Silent Auction has been temporarily postponed. In the last newsletter I had mentioned it would be Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please stay tuned as we are going to reschedule this meeting so that more parents can attend.

If you are interested in helping out in any way with the silent auction, now is the time. **Whether it's chairing a position or just helping out where you can, all hands are needed.** It could be just for an hour, a day or more. Please contact Sherrill Leppich at [mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com](mailto:mthsmusicboosters@gmail.com) if you are interested. If we can get most of our band community on board to volunteer in some way for this event, what a SUPER event it will be. This was a lot of fun last year, and it's another great

opportunity to meet other parents, students and all while helping the band program. Freshman and Sophomore parents are encouraged to help out too!!!

We have planned another Dinner Night Out Fundraiser for the band program. The next event will be Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Lynnwood. Watch for flyers that will be emailed out for you to copy and hand out to family and friends. The band program will receive 15% of the sales for those who bring in a flyer on this designated night. Please mark your calendars and come and be a part of this fun night!!! Have dinner out and help the band program all at the same time!! Our goal is to try and have at least 60 band families attend this fundraiser! We CAN do it!! Hope to see you all there!

We also will have another fundraiser coming up in April we want to give you a heads up now, so you can start thinking about those you can ask to help us out. We have an annual Spring Basket Fundraiser that has always been a great way to help raise funds for the band program. These are 12" or 14" baskets with spring flowers that last and last through the summer. They have always been a big hit and many come back each year to order these through our fundraiser. The order forms and more information will follow soon!! You will be able to order and receive these beautiful baskets in time for mother's day!! Start making your list now for those you would love to get these baskets for!!!

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Orchestra Performance

March 6<sup>th</sup> – Choir Performance

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Chamber Winds travels to CWU to perform

(make sure your permission slips are turned in~!!!) Bus leaves at 7:30 a.m.

March 9<sup>th</sup> – JAZZ 1 records at KPLU – 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

March 12<sup>th</sup> – Chamber Winds to SKMEA (All day event)

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Symphonic Band to SKMEA (all day event)

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Jazz 1 to attend the Newport High Jazz Festival

*“Research has shown that people who volunteer often live longer.”*

*~[Allen Klein](#)*

Sherrill Leppich

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