

Mountlake Terrace Bands

Jazz Ensembles

Concert Bands

Pep Band

Percussion Ensemble

NEWSLETTER

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Week of November 25th

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**Multiple pages...
please read to the
end! :)**

**Disney payment
for November
was due last Fri-
day! \$150**

Thank You!

I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. As a band department we certainly have a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful for all of my wonderful students and their parents/guardians who are so supportive of them and the program. I'm thankful for a supportive school administration and a supportive school district.

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.

Announcements

- Disneyland payment for November was DUE on the 22nd. \$150, check made payable to ESD #15.
- Jazz at Lincoln Center is the organization out of NY through which Essentially Ellington is run. They are involved in some very innovative projects especially surrounding supporting education and creating a wider audience for Jazz. One of these projects involves a company called "Tutti." This is a REALLY cool practice/study/listening tool. All band students are welcome to check it out. Here are the instructions:
 - 1.) Visit: www.tuttiplayer.com
 - 2.) Create an account using this code: 480343
 - 3.) Download the Player onto your iPad/iPhone (EE content by the end of the month) Mac or

PC

- for Mac/PC: install Flash and AIR (links are provided)

4.) Sign into the app

Alumni Profile - Bryce Call & Jessica Close

As I learn what some of our graduates are up to these days, I will include information in this newsletter about them. If you hear things, let me know.

I was paid an unexpected visit today by a couple of former students. I was very excited to see them and hear what they have been up to lately. Bryce (2007) played trumpet in the band and jazz band and Jessica (2006) played clarinet. They have been married for a little over and are living in Utah where Bryce is finishing up at BYU in Jazz Studies. Jessica is a 3rd grade teacher in her first year. She loves it! They are doing well.

Bryce will be auditioning next week for the Navy Commodore's in Washington DC. They have invited 6 applicants from throughout the US to audition over a 2 week period. The position is for lead trumpet in this outstanding jazz big band. Bryce was always a fine trumpet player with a strong upper register. While in college he took some time off playing lead to work on his jazz improvisation skills for about a year. He sounds great and I look forward to hearing how the audition goes. Here is a link to his [YouTube channel](#).

Bryce had incredible endurance on the trumpet when in high school. He could play long concerts and gigs without getting tired and would finish the show just as strong as he started. It was fun to have him in the program because I could choose anything I wanted to and put it in any order on the show. I never had to think about him getting tired. I have a great recording of our February Jazz Night in 2007 that I often play for students - one very demanding chart after another. We also played with Allen Vizzutti while Bryce was in school. They did a battle on A Night In Tunisia that was fantastic!

Bryce had many siblings. His older brother was in the band when I arrived here in 1998 and his younger brother graduated in 2010 after his band got third at Essentially Ellington. (So did Bryce's band in 2005). We had Vizzutti here to cap off the Call Family time at MTHS. We played a tune that featured their father Dr. Call, Matt Call, Bryce Call, Taylor Call, and Allen Vizzutti in the trumpet section. It was really fun and special and you can see it here: [Brass Machine](#).

Alumni Profile - Myles Lawrence

As I learn what some of our graduates are up to these days, I will include information in this newsletter about them. If you hear things, let me know.

I ran into Myles's dad, Craig Lawrence the other day at Kennelly Keys Music. Some of you may know him - he teaches private lessons in the area. He told me that Myles (2004 grad) is in a band that is really taking off in Utah. It is a 9 piece group and Myles plays tenor sax in the band. They have won some competitions and opened up for some pretty well-known acts. I asked Bryce and Jessica about it today and they said the band is really popular and their shows are really well attended. They said "They are going to make it." What a great thing for Myles and his band! Myles was always a character in high school. Definitely a "performer" even for dress up days! And especially for concerts. Once at Hot Java Cool Jazz he got down on one knee as he played a clarinet serenade to our vocalist during Rocks In My Bed.

www.wearethestrike.com

MTHS Student Profile - ***

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!

Meet Senior Levon Kalustyan. He is currently a student in Chamber Winds Band and in Jazz 1 Ensemble. As with most of our band students, Levon was given the opportunity in 4th grade to experiment with and try different instruments. He ended up trying the saxophone and decided this was the instrument for him. He played this instrument in 6th grade and still plays it today, but also plays the clarinet and sometimes the flute.

Though Levon enjoys all these instruments and wants to continue playing them, he would love the chance to learn how to play the piano as well. Levon's father plays piano occasionally now, but when he was younger, used to be the piano player in the military and also played at church and community events. His

dad's love of playing and performing was something Levon picked up on and helped Levon to be the wonderful performer he is today.

When asked what his favorite highlight might be in his musical career so far, Levon mentions that he enjoys when the band goes to festivals or competitions and he has a chance to meet and get to know other student performers from other schools. "The chance to meet other outstanding performers, my age, is always a great experience", says Levon. "There is so much high school talent out there, that it is great to see others perform and get encouragement from them as well".

If Levon could improve on one thing this year, it would be to improve on the tone of how to play. This is important to Levon, so he can better his performances at school concerts and events. There are many performers that Levon looks up to in the music industry, but if he could choose one today, to have a one on one lesson with, it would be Victor Goines. Victor Goines is a jazz saxophonist and clarinetist and received his Masters in Music at Virginia Commonwealth University. Goines is the director of jazz studies at the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University.

In his spare time, Levon enjoys listening to jazz and classical music. He likes to watch scary movies, his favorite being "Silence of the Lambs". His favorite food to eat is Chinese food and his favorite past time is hanging out with friends, seeing movies or walking around downtown Seattle, seeing the sites. Levon is also on a select volleyball team outside of MTHS. What a busy guy!!

Two years ago, the Jazz 1 Ensemble was chosen to participate in the Essentially Ellington jazz competition and Levon was part of this band. While there, the saxophone section received an award for Outstanding Performance. This was a great highlight for Levon, along with also getting an award when in middle school and he had performed at the Bellevue Jazz Festival, receiving an Outstanding Soloist award for the alto sax.

If Levon could tell younger students why music is important, he would explain to them that not only is it fun, and you make great friendships, but that by being in the music program it has helps teach you to thrive outside of music as well. "Teamwork and dedication, responsibility, preparation, all helps round me out through music", says Levon. Music is a good way to make you a well rounded individual inside and outside the band room.



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



MTHS MUSIC BOOSTERS NEWS

* UPCOMING EVENTS *

The holiday season is upon us and things are getting busy again in the music department at MTHS. The MTHS Music Boosters just finished the poinsettia fundraiser and we had a pretty good turn in of sales for the band program. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to continue to have this to be one of our best fundraisers for the band program. As a reminder, **the poinsettias will be ready for pick-up at MTHS on Saturday, December 7th between 8:00 a.m. and noon.** Please be sure to come and pick up all the plants you ordered so you can deliver to your customers.

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

- Need helping hands and volunteers to help set up on 12/13 in the HUB. Starting at 2:00 p.m. This takes awhile to set up, so as many volunteers as possible for this event to help set up is required.
- Need volunteers day of event. Cooks, Busers for tables, Santa photo cashier, Santa photo booth assistants, school guides for performers, etc.
- Are you a crafter or know of one who might like to join our crafters corner? Tables are still available for rent. Contact Sherrill Leppich for form or more information.
- **We need to borrow portable printers, and volunteers to operate. These will be what we print the photos from Santa Booth from. You do not need to provide paper. If you have a portable printer we can borrow, please let me know ASAP~! We need at east 4-5.**
- We will need helping hands for clean up as well.

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.

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!