

Mountlake Terrace Bands

Jazz Ensembles

Concert Bands

Pep Band

Percussion Ensemble

NEWSLETTER

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Week of November 4th

In This Issue:

- Last Week Recap
- Upcoming Events
- News
- Travel
- Special Opportunities
- Music Booster News

The Newsletter...

I'm finding it difficult keeping the Newsletter to a reasonable, readable length these days. It is really important that you read it. Some information is "for information only" but other things need you to take action (forms, volunteering, etc.). Please make the time to stay informed. I also like to share a little bit about what is happening and this time a little bit about my family because a student commented this week about not knowing much about me...

Last Week Recap

I would like to begin by apologizing if I didn't return your emails this past week. It was another very challenging week for me, but this time personally. My wife has been sick for two weeks and was diagnosed with pneumonia which means she has been pretty much out of commission. Fortunately, she is feeling better now, though still very tired and slow moving. But it has meant that some things that I do after school and in the evenings related to work didn't get done. Happily, we were able to still celebrate my daughter's 6th birthday on Thursday and I took my three kids trick-or-treating. For those of you who are curious: Hans (10) was the Grim Reaper, Eleanor (8) was Super Girl, and Annemarie (6) was a Kitty. On Saturday, we were able to go to my parents' house in Tacoma so they could host the family party and Jennifer and I could relax a bit.

I had an interesting conversation with Symphonic Band about my grading policies this week. This was the first time it came up this year and I think it was because the first quarter ended on Friday and some students were wondering where they stand grade-wise in class. Grading (and assessment) is one of my favorite topics. I think it is one of the most misunderstood concepts in education, is very complicated, and is at the heart of our current educational system. I'm pleased that students have not been worried about their standing in band and have not been obsessed with what they need to do to get a certain grade in class. I believe our focus should be on becoming the best musicians and students (and teachers) we can become regardless of where we start in the process. Sometimes this shift in focus is challenging for some kids (and parents), especially those to whom the "A" they receive means everything, even if it wasn't their best work. In that situation the thinking often becomes "what do I need to do (often the minimum) to receive the grade I want" rather than "what do I need to do to achieve my very best." This was my own personal experience in school and

it is backed up by research. School becomes about “getting through it” or collecting scores rather than making the most out of it with the focus on learning as much as one can about the content, about oneself, and about others. I believe “learning” almost anything is fun. Learning is exciting, intrinsically motivating, and rewarding.

I'll continue to share more thoughts about grading as time and space allows. But for now don't worry about the grade in band. Worry about how to do your best and become your best.

Upcoming Events

- Veterans Day Concert on November 7th: This concert includes Symphonic Band, Chamber Winds, and Percussion Ensemble students. Everyone will wear formal concert attire as described in the syllabus. Concert begins at 7:00.
- Veterans Day Assembly on November 8th: This all-school assembly has become a band department tradition at MTHS. The assembly happens every two years. It is from 9-10am if you would like to attend.
- Veterans Day Swing Dance on November 9th: This 2nd annual event is the follow up to our first fall dance last year that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Swing dancing, honoring of Vets, HUB decorated in a 1940's WWII theme, wonderful company and refreshments, free dance lessons. Please send any photos of family member who serve or have served in the armed forces to me at fauld@edmonds.wednet.edu so we can put together a slide show. One of my favorite moments from last year was when a Pearl Harbor survivor shared about his experience.

News

- Congratulations to the following students for being selected to participate in the Washington All-State Groups this year. This is quite an honor and privilege. Each student submitted a recorded audition that went through a screening process that selected the best students from throughout the state! Congrats to Henry Sparks (Trombone, Jazz Band), Seth McAlister-Mykrantz (Trombone, Symphony Orchestra); Andrew Cram (Trumpet, Concert Band); Chris Ryder (Alto Sax, Jazz Band)

Travel

- We are in the process of booking rooms for Disneyland and still have not heard back from everyone. Remember, we need to hear back even if you will NOT be going. As a courtesy, please let us know.
- We have a solid group of students signed up for both the Disneyland and Silverwood trips. Should be a lot of fun and a good performance experience for all involved.
- ***Your next Disneyland trip deposit is DUE NOVEMBER 22nd: \$150.***

Special Opportunities

- The 37th Annual DownBeat Student Music Awards are open and ready for your entries. Please go to www.downbeat.com/sma for the application and rules.
- December 14 at Seattle JazzEd is "Girls Jazz Day" - see their website for more information: <http://www.seattlejazzed.org/girlsday.html>
- Trumpet Players: You are invited to participate in the 2013 Central Washington University Trumpet Festival! The festival takes place on Tuesday, November 12th from 9 am to 5 pm. This year's guest artists are trumpeters Dr. Joan Paddock, Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Activities at Linfield College; and Dr. Amy Schendel, the Professor of Trumpet at the University of Iowa. These accomplished trumpet players will also give clinics and master classes during the day. For the link to our ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM, a full schedule, and more information on the clinicians, go to: <http://www.cwu.edu/music/trumpet-festival>

MTHS MUSIC BOOSTER NEWS

We are beginning a fundraiser that has been tremendously successful in the past. Families find it very easy and fun: Poinsettia Sales! Here is the order form to see what it is all about and attached to the Newsletter email is a form that is formatted correctly.

HELP STILL NEEDED:

- Volunteers for the Veterans Day Swing Dance.
- Donated Desserts for the Veterans Day Swing Dance (these are our refreshments).
- Photos of vets in your family for our slide show. (send to fauld@edmonds.wednet.edu)
- Volunteers for the Breakfast with Santa in December
- Run-out performance opportunities for our Nutcracker show. This could be for an organization you are part of or maybe your church. Please contact Mr. Faul if you have an idea.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Hi, my name is _____
 I'm raising funds for MTHS Music Boosters and
 the (band, orchestra or choir) _____ program

\$10.00 Each
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MTHS MUSIC BOOSTERS

ORDERS DUE by November 22nd, 2013. Delivery date will be December 7th, 2013 at MTHS.

Poinsettia Fundraiser
Order Form-\$10.00 each



Red



Pink



White



Burgundy

\$10.00 ea

Name/Address/Daytime Telephone #	Quantity Ordered	Quantity Ordered	Quantity Ordered	Quantity Ordered	Total \$	Paid
1.						
2.						
3.						
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