

April, 2007
The News Letter

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Instrumental Music Boosters

Hello IMB Families,

Please take this opportunity to read about our music students' performances, fundraising results, and upcoming activities included elsewhere in this newsletter. It has been a busy winter, and will continue to be a busy spring for our music students.

I want to once again encourage you to take any opportunity to participate in your student's musical endeavors at MPPS. Attending local performances is the easiest way to participate in these activities. However, the competitive programs of Fall Marching Band, Winter Drumline and Winter Guard cannot flourish without family involvement to build props, sew uniforms, transport props/equipment, feed students on trips, get the show on and off the field, support fundraising, and so on. These are wonderful non-academic programs I hope continue. Students benefit greatly from the related opportunities to provide peer leadership and work hard as a team.

Your IMB board is in the process of finalizing board member candidates to be elected at our May Annual meeting. Being a board member is great opportunity to influence how the IMB helps the MPPS music program and students. A number of current members will continue to serve on the board. However, position sharing is encouraged to both help spread the workload and make newer volunteers more comfortable about volunteering. I know the folks continuing on, along with Mr. Taton, have a lot of great ideas and energy. Please consider volunteering as a board member or attending monthly board meetings as an interested parent.

Finally in closing, I want to let you know how much my family and I have appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the IMB and the MPPS music program activities. We are completing my family's fifth year of involvement. We have all met great kids and families over those years, sharing many of life's ups and downs along the way. I want you to know that I have been repeatedly impressed by our musicians, your students, and will miss working with them. Our children are our future, and based on the kids I've been fortunate to work with, the future looks very bright!

Sincere wishes for MPPS instrumental music program success and growth,
Jan Ball, IMB President

Spring Concert Series

Featuring

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Instrumental Ensembles

Stringtacular **Tuesday April 24**

West Bands **Tuesday May 15**

Spring Strings **Thursday May 17**
(string students, grades 5-8)

Bands & Orchestra **Tuesday May 22**
of MPHS

MPHS Performing Arts Center

7:00pm,

no tickets required

Looking Ahead: Marching Band 2007

"Metropolis"

2007 Competitive Show
based on the 1927 silent film by Fritz Lang

movie web site:
www.kino.com/metropolis

Spring Rehearsals:
May 10, 14, 17, 21, 24

Memorial Day Parade
May 28

STRINGTACULAR KICKS OFF SPRING ORCHESTRA EVENTS



The 17th annual Stringtacular Concert will again light up the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Performing Arts Center. Initiated in 1991 by Chris Orlik, elementary and West strings teacher, the event is designed to bring together intermediate school musicians from multiple area districts to experience the excitement of playing in a large orchestra.

This year's April 24 program includes intermediate students from Chippewa Hills, St. Johns, and Alma as well as Mt. Pleasant sixth to eighth grade strings players and members of the high school orchestra. They are assisted by West band students in a full orchestra number that is a featured part of the program. Under guest conductor Donald Flickinger, professor emeritus from Ferris State University and director of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, the students begin the afternoon with an intensive rehearsal from 3:30 to 6:00. After a pizza dinner, they then perform their concert beginning at 7:00 pm. It is always a thrill to hear 100 young musicians who just met earlier in the afternoon join so enthusiastically to perform an entire program together.

This year's program ranges from classical compositions such as Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* to traditional favorites like *American Patrol* and concludes with the Broadway show-stopper *New York, New York*. With the kind support of several Mt. Pleasant businesses, Stringtacular makes for a wonderful learning and performance experience.

Less than a week later, on April 30, West Strings will play an outreach concert for Maplewood residents. This mid-day event (held during West's lunch periods) will be directed by our strings student teacher Sean Stephenson. In yet another outreach, Fancher fifth grade strings players will participate in a special May 27th program of Civil War music organized by Andrea Hofmiester.

The MPHS orchestra is performing Irish music for World Cultures Day on April 20. Vocal soloist is Krystal Kreamsreiter and Irish dancer is MPHS Alum Nick Gareiss. May 22 is our final MPHS band and orchestra concert at 7:00 p.m.



At the *CMU Jazz Weekend Festival* on February 16, Jason Nichol was awarded 1st runner-up outstanding soloist.

Women's City Club Music Scholarship Winners
Winners of \$500 music scholarships were: Haruki Hakoyama (9th), trumpet; Emily Wilson (7th), clarinet; Jessica McLain (11th), marimba; Jocelyn Hill (9th), voice; Sarah Alm (10th), alto saxophone
Emily Schafer of Sacred Heart, marimba.

MPHS Winter Guard and Winter Drum Line
participated at MCGC State Finals on March 30 and April 1 at the Ryder Center on the campus of SVSU. The Winter Guard finished in 15th Place in Scholastic A. The Winter Drum Line finished in 4th Place in Percussion Scholastic A.

Alex Ball took 2nd place in individual MCGC tenor solo competition.

MSBOA Solo & Ensemble District Festival

Held on Saturday, February 17, at St. John's High School for MPHS instrumental students. Those receiving Division I ratings qualified for State Festival competition held on March 24 at CMU.

Receiving Division I (Superior) Ratings

String bass solo: Jason Nichol

String duet: Matt Boles, viola and Brandon Gumm, cello

MSBOA Solo & Ensemble State Festival

Held on March 24 at CMU

Receiving Division I (Superior) Ratings

Alto Saxophone Solo: Sarah Alm

Soprano Saxophone Solo: Sarah Alm

Oboe Solo: Kate Hemmingson

String Bass Solo: Jason Nichol

Saxophone Quartet: Rebecca Newland, Sarah Alm, Josh Utterback, Kaylee Harless

Euphonium Solo: Clark Harless

Brass Chamber Ensemble - see next page

Horn Quartet: Harrison Vogel, Zoe Jackson, Stephanie Moore, Ian Fox

Receiving Division II (Excellent) Ratings

Trumpet Duet: Haruki Hakoyama and Jared Sessink

Clarinet Quartet: Mariah McDonald, Kara Wilson, Anna Koepfen-Babcock

Tuba Solo: Nicholas Vogel

MPHS instrumental students were nominated for the *Youth Arts Festival Concerto Competition* as a result of their performances at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival at CMU. *Congratulations* to Sarah Alm, saxophone; Jason Nichol, string bass; and to the brass chamber ensemble: Jared Sessink, Carrie Frame, Chris DeLong, Harrison Vogel, Stephanie Moore, Ian Fox, Zoe Jackson, Katheren Rollins, Alex DeLong, Kristian Taylor, Maris Polanco and Rick Armstrong.

District Solo & Ensemble Festival—April 14

West Intermediate participants:

Receiving Division I (Superior) Ratings

String solos: Kenneth Otani, Paige Aultman, Hannah Robinson, Ian Hall

Piano solo: Jam Bahae

String duets: Travis Danielson and Paige Aultman; Haley Gembarowski and Sam Koenicz

West Chamber Strings: Paige Aultman, Haley Gembarowski, Travis Danielson, Hana Mitchell, Kenneth Otani, Ben Roberson, Jalen Hogan, Kevin Diaz, Caitlin Hill, Hannah Robinson, Angie Himebaugh, Casey Kennedy, Jam Bahae, Conor Hall, Ian Hall, Bryan Hoef, Michael Caleca, Mitch Tecklenberg, Yanni Havles, and Otto Mullins,

Alto Sax Solos: Sean Bradley, Wang Soo Lee

Flute Solo: Megan Clark

Piano Solo: Lawrence Chen

Bell Duet: Lawrence Chen and Mahraan Qadir

Clarinet Solo: Emily Wilson

Trombone Solo: Javan Miller

Xylophone Solo: Gram Vogel (7th) –

Flute Trios: Megan Clark, Heather Malish, Skya Whitman;

Katja Babcock, Rebecca DeLong, Megan Green

Clarinet-Alto Saxophone Duets: Brendan Delorenzo and Sean Bradley

Lizzie Staples and Sarah Ouellette

Duet: Samantha Konieczka and Haley Gembarowski

Receiving Division II (Excellent) Ratings

String solos: Conor Hall, Hana Mitchell, Otto Mullins, Jalen Hogan

String duets: Kenneth Otani and Ian Hall

Mitch and Kevin Tecklenburg

Otto Mullins and Jalen Hogan

Kevin Diaz and Ben Roberson

Casey Kennedy and Jam Bahae

Bryan Hoef and Michael Caleca

Hana Mitchell and Paige Aultman

Clarinet Solos: Robert Ranzenberger, David Zhu,

Brendan Delorenzo, Felicia Bassett

Alto Saxophone Solo: Emily Backus

Brass Trio: Noah Lapp, Nick Tilmann, Ben Knack

Sax Quartet: Matt Jensen, Emily Backus, Sean Bradley, Reed Polanco

Receiving Division III Rating

Clarinet Solo: Emily Ecker

Receiving Division IV Rating

Clarinet Duet: Emily Ecker and Melanie Smith

PHOTO MEMORIES



Mike Ball is preparing a photo “yearbook” of MPHS instrumental concerts and extra curricular activities. Come to the May 22 concert to see the book make your purchase.

COMMUNITY NIGHT AND SPAGHETTI DINNER

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Winter Guard and Winter Drum Line on March 30.

Community Night performances have become a wonderful tradition giving these students a final dress rehearsal in front of a large audience prior to their competitions at state finals while giving their families and the community an opportunity to see the shows at home. We were fortunate to see not only the MPHS competitive shows, but also those of CMU’s Metamorphosis (Winter Guard) and Vestaburg’s Flag Line. This year’s Community Night was extended to include a spaghetti dinner as a fund raiser for these extracurricular activities. Thanks to John Scheide who led the kitchen crew and to all those who volunteered their time and energy to make this a successful first-time event.

Additional Dates of Note

(Remember, sometimes plans change)



IMB Board Meetings (open to all)
Typically, the 2nd Tuesday of each

month:

Tuesday May 8, MPHS band or choir room (7pm)

MPHS Bands

Monday May 28

Memorial Day Parade

Sunday June 3

MPHS Commencement

Mount Pleasant Public Schools
Instrumental Music Boosters
c/o Sallie Scheide
20 Cedar Dr.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

2006/07 IMB Board

Jan Ball, President
Tom Armstrong, Vice President
Malcolm Fox, Recording Secretary
Sallie Scheide, Corresponding Secretary
Donna Barker, Treasurer
Karen Lynch and Johanna Walter
Fund Raising
Beth Vogel, Uniforms
Susan Anders, Chaperones
Mike Ball and Marshall Jackson, Operations
Andy Marks, Public Relations
Dawn Polanco and Sharon Whipple
Volunteer Coordinators

www.mountpleasantmusic.org



A source of encouragement, enthusiasm and support for the instrumental music programs in Mt. Pleasant Public Schools

ALUMNI NEWS

Gina Taton – This winter, Gina competed with Interplay World Guard out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Gina was her second year with the guard and competed throughout Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio with this group. Gina will also be aging out from the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps (Toledo, Ohio) this summer after her 4th year. Her final performance will be in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Garrett Gillingham – Garrett is currently attending CMU and is a member of the staff of the MPHS Winter Drum Line and Fall Marching Band.

Tim Lukens – Tim is currently attending CMU and plans to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Tim was also on our Fall and Winter Percussion staff.

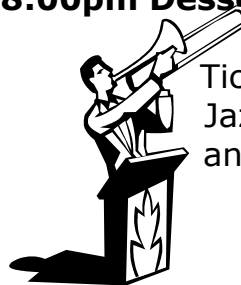
Jazz Night 2007

Featuring
*Mt. Pleasant High School
Jazz Band*

**Friday April 27
Buck's Run**

6:30pm Dinner & Dancing, \$25
(Doors open at 6:00)
**Includes Bountiful
Buck's Run Buffet**

8:00pm Dessert & Dancing, \$10



Tickets available from
Jazz Band members
and the MPHS office



Don't Forget to VOTE
Tuesday May 8
MPPS Bond Issue
For more information, check out the
MPPS web site:

www.mtpleasant.edzone.net/BondProp.htm