

February, 2007
The News Letter

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Instrumental Music Boosters

Hello Band and Orchestra Families,

Please take a few minutes to read about our music students' upcoming activities and how you can help make a difference by providing volunteer and financial support. Just look at the calendar. Our students are so devoted to music activities!

Winter and spring music activities will include winter drum line and guard competitions, concerts, solo & ensemble festivals, Stringtacular, jazz night, a community performance night, and much more. Please plan to bring your family to any and all that might fit into your busy schedules!

It is most notable that significant financial support can be provided if every family simply registers for and uses a Meijer Community Rewards card. Your students' music programs can benefit every time you check out! Please consider doing so today if you have not done so already. Just use our organization number (provided below) when you apply for your card.

Finally, the IMB board will soon be looking for volunteers to fill a variety of board positions for next year. The board meets once a month to discuss our budget, planned activities, parental concerns, and any number of other issues related to the IMB mission. Our constitution is available on our web site for review. Please consider attending one of our monthly meetings that are currently scheduled for every second Tuesday of the month in the high school band room. Being a part of this group is a key way to make a difference, whether you attend as a board member or as an interested parent.

Jan Ball,
IMB President

MPPS-Instrumental Music Boosters
Use our organization numbers when you apply for:
GFS Fun Funds: 2255525
Meijer Community Rewards: 707142

DATES OF NOTE



West Strings

- Saturday April 14 Solo & Ensemble
Alma Middle School
- Tuesday April 24 Stringtacular Concert
MPHS PAC, 7pm
- Thursday May 17 West Strings Spring Concert
Grades 5-8, MPHS PAC 7pm

West Bands

- Tuesday March 20 Concert, MPHS, 7pm
- Saturday April 14 Solo & Ensemble
Alma Middle School

MPHS Bands and Orchestra

- Friday Feb. 16 Jazz Band at CMU Jazz Weekend;
8am in Staples Auditorium
- Saturday Feb. 17 MSBOA Solo & Ensemble
- Tuesday Mar. 13 Winter Concert, MPHS, 7pm
Bands and Orchestra
- Saturday Mar. 17 District Band and Orchestra
Festival @ St. John's High School
- Thursday March 22 Pre-Solo & Ensemble Recital
- Friday March 23 Symphonic Wind Ensemble at
CMU Concert Band Symposium,
Concert in Staples Hall at 2:00
- Saturday March 24 State S&E Festival at CMU
- Tuesday May 22 Spring Concert, MPHS, 7pm

Winter Guard

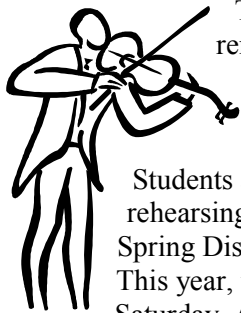
- Saturday Feb. 10 @ West Bloomfield
Saturday Feb. 24 @ Ferndale High School – WGI Regional
Saturday Mar. 10 @ Novi High School
Saturday Mar. 17 @ Troy: Athens High School
Saturday Mar. 24 @ Grand Rapids: Northview High School
Friday Mar. 30 @ MPHS – Community Performance!
Saturday Mar. 31 @ Saginaw Valley State Univ. – State Finals

Winter Drum Line

- Saturday Feb. 10 @ West Bloomfield
Saturday Feb. 24 @ Troy: Athens – WGI Regional
Saturday Mar. 10 @ Novi
Saturday Mar. 17 @ Lakeland High School
Saturday Mar. 24 @ Muskegon: Reeths-Puffer High School
Friday Mar. 30 @ MPHS – Community Performance!
Sunday Apr. 1 @ Saginaw Valley State Univ. – State Finals

West Strings

Student and Staff Vibrations



The visibility of West Strings will remain high this semester due to several performances, presentations, and recognitions.

Students are now selecting their music and rehearsing their parts in preparation for the Spring District Solo & Ensemble Festival. This year, the Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 in Alma. Only ten days later, on Tuesday, April 24, they host the 17th annual Stringtacular event in the Mt. Pleasant Performing Arts Center. Stringtacular brings together orchestra students from several area districts to rehearse and perform a collective concert under a guest conductor. Due to the calendars of participating schools, this is the first time that the event will take place on Tuesday rather than Thursday. Stringtacular will be followed by the annual Spring concert on Thursday, May 17 that features all Mt. Pleasant strings students in grades 5 through 8.

The conductor for Stringtacular will be Don Flickenger, the former West Band Director and the one that "planted the seed" for an Auditorium for our schools. He left West for a position at Ferris State and later became Dean of the School of Fine Arts. He retired from Ferris in June and started the following week with the International Band at Blue Lake. He is a very busy guy!

Mr. Flickenger is running the Blue Lake Camp experience for the State of Michigan. He also has scholarships available for our young musicians!

In January activity, West Strings director Chris Orlik presented *Fail-Safe Strategies for Successful Rehearsals* at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. This was part of the session on "String Teaching Tips for Newcomers and College Students." Chris was also the presenter at two other sessions: "Making Musical Mental Leaps – Connections to Core Curriculums" and "Using Music *ACE* in the Elementary Music Classroom --- Computers," with Mt. Pleasant faculty presenters Linda Louisell and Andrea Hofmeister. Chris was also notified that she has been selected for inclusion in the 2007 edition of *Who's Who in America* as well as the 2007 edition of *Who's Who of American Women*.

Meet West Strings Student Teacher: Iain Stephenson

Sean Iain Stephenson hails from Kalamazoo Michigan. After a number of years there and at Lansing he first got his musical bug in Grand Rapids Michigan in 5th Grade. After playing only a couple of years in the orchestra at

Caledonia he was at the top of the class. In high school he was right at the top as well and played in school plays, solo ensemble festivals, and professional youth orchestras such as the Kent Phil Harmonia Orchestra and the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. During this time he was studying with master performers Karen Knofsinger of the Grand Rapids Symphony, and Jason Economides of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. After High school Iain went to study at Central Michigan University and is currently doing his student teaching at West Intermediate School in Mt. Pleasant. During his years at Central he has remained a big participant in the music community. He was in the Symphonic Orchestra at central for a number of years as well as being involved in private ensembles for weddings, concerts, and any other musical opportunity. He has also played in professional plays such as Pirates of Pinsance and Operatic Works through Central Michigan's Drama program. During his undergraduate years at Central he worked with great performers such as Seunghee Lee, Dr. Carlton Woods, and Dr. James Fiste on his performance study. Along with his musical talents, he also played baseball, wrestled, skied, and did many other social activities. Graduating in the fall Iain says, "bring it on," and hopes to bring something great to the West Intermediate School Orchestra.

Private Lessons

To maximize their personal progress and enjoyment in playing their instruments, strings students are encouraged to study privately. The three CMU music majors listed below are available to provide lessons on all strings instruments.

Rhiannon Mitchell cell (586) 839-0378
Iain Stephenson cell (616) 862-0138
Angela McAnallen cell (906) 553-2167

Private study and practice bring a great sense of musical satisfaction and helps improve all of our ensembles.

Fall Solo & Ensemble Festival

West Intermediate instrumental students traveled to Perry High School on Saturday December 2 to participate in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival. All students medaled, earning rankings from the judges of either Division I (Superior) or Division II (Excellent) Receiving Division I (Superior) Ratings

String Solos: Haley Gembarowski, Paige Aultman, Ian Hall

String Quartet: Ben Roberson, Hana Mitchell, Conor Hall and Ian Hall

Flute solo: Megan Clark

Clarinet solos: Emily Wilson, Chanda Crenshaw, Robert Ranzenberger

Flute duet: Megan Clark and Heather Malisht

Receiving Division II (Excellent) Ratings:

String Duets: Kenneth Otani and Kevin Diaz; Travis Danielson and Jam Bahae; Hannah Robinson and Catlin Hill

Strings Chamber Group: Paige Aultman, Hana Mitchell, Travis Danielson, Haley Gembarowski, Ben Roberson, Jam Bahae, Kenneth Otani, Kevin Diaz, Angie Himebaugh, Caitlin Hill, Hannah Robinson, Conor Hall, Ian Hall, Yanni Haveles, Michael Caleca and Otto Mullins

Alto saxophone solo: Lizzie Staples, Wang Soo Lee

Clarinet solos: Shaila Nicholson, Felicia Bassett

Horn solo: Alex Rise

Clarinet/Alto saxophone duet: Shaila Nicholson and Lizzie Staples

Trombone duet: Trudy Godde and Jeremy Allen

Clarinet trio: Chanda Crenshaw, Joshua Morros and Marcy Strickland


West Bands

Our next concert for the West Intermediate 7th grade and 8th grade bands is scheduled for March 20th. The concert will begin at 7:00pm and will be held at the MPHS Performing Arts Center. Students are to arrive by 6:30pm to ensure proper warm up.

MSBOA District V will be having the Spring Junior High Solo and Ensemble Festival on April 14th at Alma Public Schools. All 7th and 8th grade band and orchestra students are able to participate.

The deadline to get money in is Feb. 14th. Your child should be bringing a note home explaining Solo and Ensemble and what the costs are.

High School Bands and Orchestra



The MPHS Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed at Mary McGuire Elementary School on Wednesday, Feb. 7. The Wind Ensemble played a wide variety of pieces including "Chaconne" by Gustav Holst, "The Pink Panther" by Henry Mancini, and "The Simpson's" by Danny Elfman. The high school students answered a few questions from future band students.

MSBOA District V Solo and Ensemble Festival will be held at Bay City: Central High School on Feb. 17th. Students will be leaving at approximately 6:00am from MPHS. All events will be occurring before noon. Parents are encouraged to attend, however, all student participants will ride the bus to Bay City. Students leaving with their parents need to provide Mr. Taton or Mrs. Jorgensen with a note prior to leaving for Bay City.

Students that receive a 1st Division rating on their solos or ensembles will be eligible to attend the State Festival held at CMU on March 24th. The deadline for submitting to the State Festival is Feb. 21st!

The MPHS Bands and Orchestra will be having a Winter Concert on March 13th. The concert starts at 7:00pm and will be held in the MPHS Performing Arts Center.

15 members of the MPHS Orchestra performed in the pit orchestra for Ruddigore. It was a fine performance by all.

The MPHS Symphonic Wind Ensemble has been asked to perform as part of the CMU Concert Band Symposium held at the School of Music on the campus of CMU March 23rd. The band students will be performing at Staples Hall as part of a concert featuring the Andover High School Band, the Clarkston High School Band, and the CMU Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Students will attend clinics and master classes during the morning as well as working with a guest conductor. The free concert starts at 2:00.



MPHS Jazz Band

The MPHS Jazz Band will have its first performance at the CMU Jazz Weekend Festival held on February 16 in the School of Music. They will perform in the Staples Auditorium at 8:00am. The performance is free of charge. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend. The Jazz Band will also be performing at the MSBOA State Jazz Regional in April at a date yet to be determined.

MPHS Winter Guard and Drum Line

The MPHS Winter Guard is off to a great start by placing 6th in equipment at the Plymouth High School contest on Jan. 27. The guard finished 14th place overall with their show entitled "This is How it Ends".



The MPHS Winter Drum Line will present its show "DDR: The Mt. Pleasant Re-mix" at their first contest in West Bloomfield on Feb. 10. The show depicts the video game craze "Dance Dance Revolution" with original music by Jake Johnson and Bill Boswell, staff members.

Web sites for Winter Guard and Winter Drum Line:

Michigan Color Guard Circuit: www.mcgc.net
Drum Corps International: www.dci.org

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

2006/07 IMB Board

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Tom Armstrong, Vice President
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Volunteer Coordinators

www.mountpleasantmusic.org



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

Community Night Friday March 30

Spaghetti Dinner

Served 5:00-6:45

MPHS Cafeteria

Tickets sales begin in March

Dinner music by MPHS Jazz Band

Winter Drum Line and Winter Guard Performances

MPHS Gymnasium

7:00pm, no ticket required

MPHS Winter Guard and Drum Line will share the floor
with groups from CMU and area high schools

Come see what it's all about!!

Jazz Night 2007

Mark your calendars!!

Friday April 27

Bucks Run

Times and Ticket Information

Coming soon

Alumni News

Beginning with our next issue, we would like
to share stories and updates about our
band and orchestra alumni. Please send
information to scheidesallie@aol.com