

October, 2006
The News Letter

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Instrumental Music Boosters

*Led Zeppelin lyrics from the song Kashmir:
Oh let the sun beat down upon my face,
stars to fill my dream
I am a traveler in both time and space,
to be where I have been*

Hello Band and Orchestra Families,

First, please accept my apology for the delay in getting this first newsletter out to you all. I hope you will find the information in here interesting as well as helpful!

While the IMB supports all facets of the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools' instrumental music programs, the great majority of our work in the early fall is focused on the competitive marching band program. It has been a great year so far! The show, *Elemental Led, the Music of Led Zeppelin*, is both entertaining for the audience as well as challenging for the students to perform. This is our family's fifth and final year, and I continue to be so impressed with the time and energy the students, staff, and parents bring to this program to make it work and grow. I recently put out a last minute request for assistance, concerned that an upcoming weekend's competition sites and weather could pose challenges more easily addressed if additional adults were available. Even now as I write this, I am touched thinking of those who stepped forward to help on such short notice. It was a very busy, very long, very cold day, and having extra hands helping made it easier for everyone. And, lest I forget, the tail-gating was terrific! Food donations, helpers, and coordination by our 'Master Chef' Sallie Scheide made the meals at each site a nice opportunity for staff, students and parents to slow down for a few minutes and re-group. Watch for pictures in the end-of-season slide show!

With the marching band season waning, the concert season will be following shortly. I hope you and your extended family members and friends will plan to attend one or more concerts this year. Regardless of the group your student participates in, the students always put on a great show, and great shows should have an audience. We are so lucky to have the beautiful facility we do for our students to perform in. Please plan to join us!

Musical programs are expensive by nature. IMB board members count on you, our family members, to help raise funds to supplement large private/corporate donations and school budget monies for equipment purchases, competitive program budgets (props, gasoline, drill, music, etc.), music scholarships, uniforms, tuxedos, etc. As I write this, we are in the middle of our second marching band pop can drive. Other general fund raising opportunities are being planned for later this fall. Please check out the details elsewhere in this newsletter so you can plan on helping with these activities.

As we near the end of our family's last marching band season, I want to offer my sincere thanks to everyone that has helped to build this program. It was just 'starting over' when Alex joined in eighth grade, and Mike and I were uncertain about accepting an IMB board meeting invitation from a friend. After one season we were hooked! Those initial doubts have long since been replaced by the joy that comes from traveling and working with such a great group of families and kids year after year.

Sincerely,
Jan Ball, MPPS Instrumental Music Booster
President

November and December Concerts

MPHS Choir and Orchestra
Gilbert and Sullivan's Ruddigore
Tuesday November 21

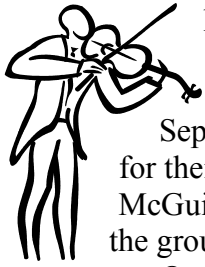
West Bands
Tuesday December 12

West Strings
Thursday December 14

MPHS Holiday Collage Concert
Bands, Choirs, Orchestra
Tuesday December 19

MPHS Performing Arts Center
7:00pm

Orchestra October Overture



As October begins, Elementary and West Strings have started the beat of a new school year. First Year Strings had their Recruitment Open House on September 28 and Fancher students met for their initial rehearsal the following day. McGuire students began on October 2 and the groups experienced their first joint class on October 5. These 46 new players have learned the names of their strings and now move on to bowing! Meanwhile, the Second Year Orchestra is 23 strong. They helped with string demonstrations during visits to their schools and are now coping with new fingering positions and key signatures. Hello F and C naturals and Bb's.

We are happy to have Rhiannon Mitchell back with us this Fall. She is a CMU music education major and has studio teaching experience along with experience in our classroom. She always sports a smile, words of encouragement, and a great sense of anticipating young student needs. Angela McAnalleen is new to our program this year. She is a cello player from the Upper Peninsula and is enjoying meeting our elementary players and teaching proper posture and bow holds. Angela's dad is a band director so she is well versed in the challenges of school music.

West Strings are already heavily involved in the year's events. Saturday, October 14 was set as the date for Honors Orchestra at Lansing Waverly High School where many West players join with those from several other mid-Michigan students to comprise three orchestras that rehearse and present a concert all in the same day. Looking farther ahead, a tentative Dickens Downtown performance is scheduled for December 1 with the Fall Solo & Ensemble Festival the following day in Perry. Thursday, December 14 marks the Winter Concert for strings players grades 5 to 8 in the Mt. Pleasant High School Performing Arts Center. The performance begins at 7 pm.

Spring Solo & Ensemble Festival follows on April 14 at the new Alma Middle School. A couple of weeks later, on Thursday, April 26, strings students in grades 6 to 9 will join with friends from other districts for our annual Stringtacular event, again at the Performing Arts Center. This concert will also begin at 7 pm.

With so many students and so many events on the horizon, we encourage our students to take private lessons in order to reach their full potential. Several teachers are listed in the Strings Handbook. Anyone who needs a copy of this list can contact Mrs. Orlik at West 775-2220 ext.120 or at her home 773-9370.

2006 Marching Band and the Music of Led Zeppelin travel to State Finals

The Marching Band qualified for State Finals for the first time since their State Championship in 2000. The band really came on strong at the final four competitions qualifying with a 72.05 at West Bloomfield on Oct. 14 and following that up with a 1st place finish and score of 71.00 at Durand. The band ended up in 4th place in Flight III and will perform at 9:30pm at Ford Field in Detroit on Oct. 28th.

Marching Band Seniors

As October comes to a close, 13 seniors are completing their final season of competition within the Michigan Competing Bands Association. They have represented Mt. Pleasant High School with talent and poise. We are proud of you!!!

Alex Ball, percussion
Caitlin Barrett, color guard
Bethany Cousineau, percussion
Alex DeLong, trombone
Chris DeLong, baritone
Clark Harless, baritone
Stephanie Harless, drum major
Josh Hudson, color guard
Sydney Moilanen, color guard
Monisha Nadaraja, drum major
Katheren Rollins, tuba
Melissa Theunissen, alto saxophone
Harrison Vogel, mellophone

Search Shutterfly for Photos

Photographs from football games, competitions and concerts can be found on Shutterfly. Check it out:

October Happenings

While this newsletter was being prepared, orchestra students participated in the CMU Honors Orchestra on October 24:

Maria Unzueta and Andrew Frame, violin
Leslie Fox and Lawrence Gross, viola

Also on Oct. 24, MPHS symphonic band, symphonic wind ensemble and orchestra performed a fall concert. Thank you for sharing your talents with the community.

Thanks to Our Community Donors

Donations help defray the cost of our extra-curricular programs: Marching Band, Winter Guard and Winter Drum Line. Many thanks to those in our community who help make these programs possible.

Ace of Diamonds
Audience Development Group
Central Plumbing
Central Michigan Family Dentistry
Great Lakes Gas
Grafx Central
Isabella Bank & Trust
Isabella County Abstract
Isabella Community Credit Union
Joseph T. Barberi
Lukens Family
Meijer
Mountain Town Rehab
Mt Pleasant Agency
Mt Pleasant Rotary Club
Mt Pleasant Women's Club
Meijers & GFS rewards program
Mt. Pleasant Lions Club
Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club
Polanco Family
Ric's Food Center
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Sherwin Williams

No Cost Fund Raising

If you shop at Meijer or Gordon Food Service, please register for their community rewards programs. The Instrumental Music Boosters participate with both of these programs. All you need to do is apply for your own card and MPPS-IMB will receive the rebates. Our organization numbers are:

GFS (Fun Funds): 2255525

Meijer Community Rewards: 707142

New Additions to the Classrooms

Thanks to grants received from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe during the 2005/2006 school year, the following instruments are in our classrooms: marimba, baritone saxophone, 3 tubas, soprano saxophone, tenor saxophone, English horn, synthesizer, 5 cornets, bass trombone, chimes, 2 electric violins, electric cello and amps.



Holiday Fund Raising

For **all** students in
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
Instrumental Ensembles

Taking orders in November
with delivery for

Poinsettias, Wreaths and Garlands
First Week of December

And

Gold Canyon
Scented Candles
In mid December

Watch for packets
to be given to students
in the classrooms in early November



Cooking for Teens?

Try some of the recipes we have enjoyed at marching band competitions. Please realize that these band-parent cooks don't always follow recipes, but they have attempted to record their teen-tested dishes.

Taco Salad (Kathy Paparella)

Stephanie Harless, drum major
Kayle Harless, alto saxophone
1-2 pounds ground beef
2 packets Taco Bell Taco Seasoning mix.
1 1/2 cup water.
1 Head Iceburg Lettuce
1 (3 pack) Romaine Lettuce.
1 Green Pepper.
Grape Tomatoes or 1 Large tomato.
4 Cups Shredded Colby Jack Cheese.
1 Bottle Western Salad Dressing.
1 Bag Nacho Cheese Doritos.

- 1) Brown ground beef until cooked. Drain fat. Add Taco seasoning and water. Simmer about 15 minutes.
- 2) Wash and tear lettuce. Drain well.
- 3) Chop green peppers.
- 4) Slice or dice tomatoes.
- 5) Crush Doritos.

Just before serving, mix meat mixture with lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers and cheese. Mix in dressing. Add Doritos last. If you prefer, let everyone add their cheese and Doritos individually so salad doesn't become too soggy.

Potato Soup (Tim Welch)

Mason Welch, trumpet
Using a 5 qt sauce pan, add
8-10 cut potatoes
2-3 carrots
chunks of ham
1 onion
3-4 tbl of granulated chicken bouillon
salt & pepper
(pan is about 3/5 full of ingredients)

Fill with water enough to just cover ingredients, bring to boil and simmer till cooked, don't over cook, usually about 30 minutes.

Combine 1 can of evaporated milk with 1/3 to 1/2 cup of corn starch in a separate bowl and mix well. Add this and regular milk to the pan leaving about 1.5 inches from the top of the pan for tweeking.

Add milk to thin, or to thicken, mix in a small bowl, corn starch and milk @ 1/2 and 1/2 ratio to use for thickening.

Pasta Salad (Leslie Jones)

Katheren Rollins, tuba
For every box of pasta:
Add one can black olives
One bunch of green onion
One red and one green pepper (you can use all the colors of peppers to add more color if you choose to)
One large bag of sliced pepperoni
Half of red and white onion
One container of cherry tomatoes sliced in half or four good sized tomatoes chopped up in bite size pieces
One large peeled and cored cucumber cut up into bite sized pieces
2 stalks of celery cut up into bite size pieces
One bag of cheese bites
Two bottles of creamy Italian dressing
Mushrooms are optional but nice in bite size pieces

Chill over night so that the pasta soaks up salad dressing flavors. Usually serves four to six.

Chocolate Toffee (Dawn Polanco)

Maris Polanco, trombone
1-2 sleeves saltine crackers
1 cup sugar
2 sticks butter (1 cup)
1 bag milk chocolate chips

Line a cookie sheet (with sides) with foil. Put one layer of saltine crackers on top of foil. Melt butter in a sauce pan. Add sugar and bring to a boil. Boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Spread butter/sugar mixture over crackers--smooth out. Bake for 15 minutes (350) until caramel colored. Immediately after it comes out of the oven, sprinkle with chocolate chips. Wait until they melt--about 5 minutes. Once it's partially melted, spread chocolate like frosting. Refrigerate. After toffee has chilled--chop into bite size pieces.

Notes: May also be made with graham crackers or whole wheat saltines. Some recipes call for brown sugar. Don't use Splenda!





Dates of Note
(Remember, sometimes plans change)



IMB Board Meetings (open to all)

Typically, the 2nd Tuesday of each month:
 Tuesday Nov.14, MPHS band or choir room (7pm)
 Tuesday Dec. 12, MPHS band or choir room (7pm)

West Strings

Saturday Dec. 2 Solo & Ensemble
 Perry High School

Thursday Dec. 14 Winter Concert
 MPHS PAC, 7pm

Jan. 25-27 Music Conference, Teachers
 Grand Rapids

Saturday April 14 Solo & Ensemble
 Alma Middle School

Thursday April 26 Stringtacular Concert
 MPHS PAC, 7pm

Thursday May 17 West Strings Spring Concert
 Grades 5-8, MPHS PAC 7pm

West Bands

Saturday Dec. 2 Solo & Ensemble
 Perry High School

Tuesday Dec. 12 Concert, MPHS, 7pm

Saturday April 14 Solo & Ensemble
 Alma Middle School



MPHS Bands and Orchestra

Tues. Oct. 24 Fall Concert
 MPHS PAC at 7:30

Tues. Nov. 21 Gilbert and Sullivan's Ruddigore
 Choir and Orchestra, MPHS 7pm

Friday Dec. 1 Dickens, Downtown Celebration

Tuesday Dec. 19 Holiday Collage Concert
 Bands, Choirs, Orchestra, MPHS 7pm

Saturday Feb. 17 MSBOA Solo & Ensemble

Saturday Mar. 17 District Band and Orchestra
 Festival @ St. John's High School

Thursday March 22 Pre-Solo & Ensemble Recital

Tuesday May 22 Spring Concert, MPHS, 7pm

Marching Band Competitions

See Where They Have Been

September 16 Flushing Invitational
 at Flint Atwood Stadium

September 23 Clarkston Invitational

October 7 Allegan Invitational

October 14 Great Lakes Invitational at
 Plymouth

October 14 West Bloomfield Invitational

October 21 Durand Area Invitational

October 21 Huron Valley Invitational

October 28 MCBA State Finals
 @ Ford Field, Detroit

Marching Band Banquet
 Thursday November 9
 MPHS Cafeteria
 6:00pm
 Potluck Dinner

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



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

**2006/07 Instrumental Music Booster
Officers**

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

Staying Connected

We encourage you to stay connected with your children and the instrumental music classes and programs they participant in. Don't hesitate to contact an IMB officer if you have any questions. We often stay connected with students and their families by e-mail. You can find an e-mail address for each board member on the website:
www.mountpleasantmusic.org

If you wish to be included in e-mail communication, please contact Dawn Polanco at: volunteers@mountpleasantmusic.org. Let her know which ensemble your child participates in. She can add you to our list to receive reminders and announcements. (which can be more timely than newsletters prepared for mailing).