School Events, Activities & Happenings

**EVENTS**

**UPCOMING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CONCERTS**

Dec. 7: MSMS Orchestra, District Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 11: MSHS Choir, District Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 12: MSMS Choir, MSMS Gym, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 13: MSMS Band, District Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: MSHS Band/Strings, District Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Dec. 15: Dance Performance, District Auditorium, 6 p.m.

The District Auditorium is located at 110 Pawnee Ave., and the MSMS Gym is at 415 El Monte Pl.

**EMLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Ute Pass Elementary: PARAPROFESSIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION /SEVERE NEEDS** (part time, mornings).


**BUS DRIVERS NEEDED:** We are now accepting applications for qualified school bus drivers. More information: www.mssd14.org.

**A Message from Russ Vogel, MSES Principal**

Two new initiatives by Music Teacher Elizabeth Lawson have transformed music classes for students at Manitou Springs Elementary School.

First, through a grant from the "Music and the Brain" (MATB) program of the 42nd Street Development Corporation of New York two years ago, the school received a full class set of electric pianos, curriculum, and program training for Lawson. Kindergartners began learning piano that year. (All students have some keyboard instruction integrated into their music curriculum, but the program’s emphasis will be mainly students in Kindergarten through Second Grade.)

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The program is popular with students and parents/guardians—and there’s more to it than just piano: “Teachers implementing the program are encouraged to aim high, but not get preoccupied with creating little pianists,” Lawson says. “The lessons are more about music than just pianos.” Inspired by neurological research linking music and cognitive development, MATB believes that when children receive sequential music instruction, it can impact their proficiency in language, reading, math, and cognition. Before practicing at the pianos, children learn about the piece they are studying through movement, games, analysis, and singing.

The second initiative, launched last year, started when Lawson became interested in providing an introductory violin program for MSES Third-graders and, with the support of Principal Russ Vogel, Lawson applied for a matching grant from the Classics for Kids Foundation (CFKF). The foundation’s initial grant of $4,000 was matched by private donations and the support of District 14 and the MSES Parent Action Committee—and the school purchased some 75 small violins for our Third-graders’ use both in school and to take home for extra practice.

“For students who have been with the school since Kindergarten, Third Grade represents a “graduation” from the three-year MATB curriculum,” Lawson says. "After getting comfortable reading, playing, singing and moving to many styles of music on keyboards, our Third-graders are ready to take on a new challenge—and playing the violin is, without doubt, a challenge!”

Kindergartners performed solos in the piano lab for proud parents/guardians last year. Third-graders performed with the Colorado Springs Symphony at their student concert day in the Pikes Peak Center last year and accompanied themselves singing at our annual Veterans’ Day Program on Nov. 10.

**MSSD 14 Clothing Closet**

Manitou Springs School District Clothing Closet is located at Manitou Springs High School. Please call the office of Partners for Healthy Choices at 685-2004 to schedule an appointment to shop. If you are in need of items, but can’t make it during school hours; email us with your needs, we’ll shop for you, then have it delivered to your child’s school.

The middle school strings program began in 2014, followed by the high school in 2015. How many students (6th–12th grade) currently participate in the strings programs?

A. 17
B. 29
C. 34
D. 43

Previous week’s answer: B. 2,052 – Partners for Healthy Choices collected 2,052 lbs. of food during the 2016/2017 school year.

**SUPER HOLIDAY MUSIC SHOWCASE**

Ute Pass Elementary, 9230 Chipita Park Rd., Cascade Thursday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

There will be joyous singing from K-3rd grade, with live instrumentation and a choir performance from the 6th grade band and choir.

MSES students (from left to right) Alesandra Lampasso, LilyBelle Flint, Dax Voorheis, Torben Halterman and Cade Shelhamer concentrate on their violin lesson.

**Artist of the Week**

**The Artist of the Week** is Jordan Anderson, MSMS, 8th Grade. Anderson’s song, "I Am," is an inspiring reflection on following one’s heart.

**Pop Quiz**

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