

Music Notes

6th Grade Alternative Strings

Mr. Griffith and Mrs. Gyssler are excited to announce the formation of a brand new extracurricular string group this year. The 6th Grade Alternative Strings was created for the purpose of educating orchestra students on a variety of musical styles such as jazz music, fiddle music, and world music. Our focus will be developing performance techniques, playing fun and engaging musical selections, learning the historical and cultural significance of pieces being performed, and live performance. We invite all 6th grade orchestra students to participate in this fun and educational new musical group this year. The Alternative Strings group will meet from 4:15-5:15 on Monday evenings at the Yorkville Middle School or on Tuesday nights if there is no school. We have scheduled our first concert on April 26th of this year but are looking for other performance opportunities in the community as well. There is no fee for joining the group. Just sign up, grab your instrument, and join us for some really awesome alternative string music!



6th Grade Solo Night February 8th

On Tuesday, February 8th the Yorkville Middle School will be hosting a 6th grade Solo Night. All 6th grade band and orchestra students will choose a solo to prepare and perform for a judge the night of the event. The judge's role is simply to provide feedback on each student's performance and offer individualized advice for improvement and praise for specific achievements. This is a great opportunity for students to develop strong independent playing skills and work on music of their choice. Family members are welcome and encouraged to listen to student performances. The event will begin at 4pm Tuesday evening and end around 9pm with each performance lasting 3-5 minutes each. Students will be given a specific performance time based on their availability. Students are also welcome to perform in small groups in addition to their solo performance but must have director approval first. The directors will do the best we can to accommodate student schedules and help students select appropriate and fun music for the solo night. We are looking forward to this event and hearing all of our wonderful soloists perform!

Students Revive “A Tale of Two Jesters” for 17th Annual Madrigal Dinner

On December 10th, 11th and 12th, the YHS Madrigals will present the 17th annual Madrigal Dinner, “A Tale of Two Jesters”, which puts a spin on the classic tale, “The Prince and the Pauper.” This script was first performed in 2005 and Mr. Wayne admits, “It’s one of my favorite scripts that I’ve written. I’m excited to be presenting it again with our newest group of madrigal singers and players. Even though this script has already been seen by many people, we are hoping to reach new audiences, and that our loyal followers will think of these productions as “old classics”, like ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ or ‘Miracle on 34th Street’ that they will want to revisit every five or six years and enjoy all over again.”

Providing beautiful music, this year’s madrigal singers include: Amanda Bello, Jordan Brosi, Kaity Calhoun, Mike Craig, Payton Gammicchia, Erika King, Lizz Knop, Lindsay Kring, Olivia Lawson, Meredith Olson, Rachel Plasch, Matt Quanstrom, Alma



Ramos, Dan Rega, Lauren Rhodes, Tyler Riederer, Cody Rios, Joe Runkle, Kyle Schmunk-Clementz, Lesley Shanks, Ryan Smith, Matt Weaver, and Steven Yu.

Acting out the story, this year’s madrigal players are: Chris Allen, Natalie Amend, Ashley Bendien, Bea Egner, John Pletka & Terry Pletka. The criers will be Taylor Hamilton & Anya Malley on Friday, Kate O’Neil & Wendy Myers on Saturday and Rachel Eaton and Melissa Myers on Sunday.

Additional music will be provided by the madrigal maidens, madrigal brass, and madrigals strings. The madrigal maidens in-

clude: Kelsey Andorf, Katherine Barak, Adriana Bello, Kelsey Burlington, Katie Caldwell, Nikki Cope, Rosia Gooding, Sarah Harmon, Kayla McClarren, Vicki Nicholson, Britanni Selover, Casey Sutcliff, Kim Vargas, Abbie Worley, Joyce Yu. The madrigal brass includes: Evan Dill, Nikola Jelinkova, Chris Miller, Charlie McFarlane & Tommy Robbins, student directed by Amber Milliron. The madrigal strings will be filled by the Orchestra 44 members: Angela Fiorito, Laurel Forlano, Kristen Gilbertson, Kori Haarz, Julia Herren, Kolten Hereen, Amanda Kraupner, Dana Lacey, Thomas

Milschewski, Kayla Schoeny & Gunnar Seilheimer

Tickets to the Madrigal Dinner will be available online at www.showtix4u.com until Tuesday, December 7th. Friday and Saturday performances start at 6:00 pm and the Sunday performance begins at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 and include a dinner of both grilled pork chop and grilled chicken breast, catered by The 5 B’s. Please come join us at this wonderful Holiday event!



Red Paw Chili Supper October 29, 2010



The third annual Red Paw Chili Supper was a huge success! Students, parents, and community members had a terrific time sampling several different varieties of chili and hot dogs. Dinner entertainment was expertly provided by Orchestra 44. The evening concluded with an indoor performance by the 2010 Marching Foxes. The event raised \$1800 for the music boosters.

A special thanks goes out to the Music Boosters and parents for organizing, decorating, cooking and serving at the 2010 Red Paw Chili Supper! Thanks also to TimberCreek Farms for the donation of produce baskets, and to Kendall Pub for the donation of paper goods.





ACES 5th Grade Orchestra



GRES 5th Grade Orchestra

Many YHS and YMS performance events
Are now ticketed online at:

www.showtix4u.com

This is a fast and convenient way to get your
seats for the hottest tickets in Yorkville!



5th and 6th Grade Band Field Trip to Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Yorkville's Band Department is excited to announce a field trip to see one of the best orchestras in the world, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. On January 25th, Miss Maggie Wood and Miss Meredith Melvin will be taking Yorkville's 5th and 6th grade band students to Chicago to see a performance centered around the concept of rhythm. The performance will feature the 2010 Crain-Mailing CSO Youth Audition winner Marcelina Suchocka on marimba. The Educational Series of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra was developed specifically for students in Grade 4-8 to develop an increased understanding and appreciation for symphonic music. In total, 275 students will be in attendance where they will hear an array of music, ranging from Baroque to Contemporary by listening to composers such as Bach, Rameau, Mozart, Berlioz, Bartok, and Bernstein. In preparation for this concert, a representative from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will travel to Yorkville to educate students the music's composers, the history and legacy of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and proper concert etiquette. Miss Wood and Miss Melvin would like to thank any parents who volunteered to chaperone for this amazing experience. It is their hope that this will become an annual field trip for the 5th and 6th grade band students.



YMS Alternative Strings

YMS Alternative Strings is an extra curricular group at YMS that meets Mondays after school from 2:30-4:00pm. We perform many different styles of music like fiddle, jazz, show tunes, rock, folk and holiday music. Our season begins with the Orchestra Holiday Concerts December 7th and 9th at 7pm.

Some highlights to our concert season are the upcoming holiday performance at Heritage Woods, an assisted living community in Yorkville, and a performance at the YMS book fair in March.

Our main event for the year will be our first ever “Pop & Pretzels Concert” on April 26th at 7pm in the YMS cafeteria.

Along with the YMS Alternative Strings, this concert will feature the 6th Grade Alternative Strings, and the YHS Orchestra 44. The evenings’ program will include orchestral arrangements of Pop, fiddle and jazz music. As the name implies, guests are welcome to enjoy an evening of performances in an informal reception hall style setting, complete with *pop and pretzels!*

For a full list of concert dates for YMS Alternative Strings, please check the Orchestra website at www.yorkvillemusic.org



Orch 44 Performs at Whitetail Ridge . . .

On October 22, the YHS Orchestra 44 performed a variety of selections from Broadway musicals and pop tunes for the patrons at the Kendall Art Guild's charity event that was held at the White Trail Ridge Country Club. The Friday evening performance under the direction of Mr. Gerry Romack featured Laurel Forlano, Julia Heeren, Kolten Heeren, Amanda Kraupner, Kori Haarz, Kristin Gilbertson, Dana Lacey, and Gunnar Seilheimer. Proceeds from the art auction went to provide funds for the Kendall Art Scholarships.



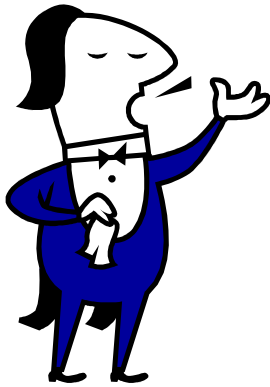
... and at RedPaw Chili Supper!

On Friday, October 29, the Orchestra 44 ensemble from YHS performed an hour long variety of selections for the patrons at the Red Paw Chili dinner at Yorkville High School. The Friday evening performance under the direction of Mr. Gerry Romack featured Laurel Forlano, Julia Heeren, Kolten Heeren, Amanda Kraupner, Kori Haarz, Kristin Gilbertson, Dana Lacey, and Gunnar Seilheimer.



District #115 Music Faculty Recital

Congratulations to all district #115 music faculty who performed in the faculty recital. The recital which took place on November 23rd in the YMS Auditorium, was filled with professionalism and beautiful music. Accompanied by pianist, Mary Ann Free. The following Yorkville District #115 Music Faculty performed:



Victor Anderson, trombone, percussion
Nick Cagle, percussion
Erin Carroll, alto
Chris Griffith, bass
Rebecca Hof, soprano
Mike McHugh, tenor
Mike Lipinski, trumpet, percussion
Meredith Melvin, euphonium, percussion
Christy Motley, soprano
Gerry Romack, violin
Ken Wayne, baritone
Maggie Wood, percussion



YHS MUSICIANS PLAN FLORIDA TOUR

On March 25 - 31, 2011, YHS Music Students who elect to will be representing Yorkville in Orlando, Florida. Some of the highlights of the trip are performances in Disney parks by the Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Marching Foxes. In addition students will be visiting the following amusement parks: Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, Downtown Disney,

Disney's Hollywood Studios, Islands of Adventure, and Universal Studios. For more information and a complete itinerary, log on to www.yorkvillemusic.org.

MARCHING FOXES



Congratulations to the YHS Marching Foxes on completion of another very successful marching season! The marching band traveled throughout the state parading and presenting their field show, "You Are The New Day" to tens of thousands of marching band enthusiasts. At 140 students, this is the largest Marching Band in the history of Yorkville High School.

The Marching Foxes under the leadership of drum majors Leslie Erb, Natalie Hamp, and Rachel Riemenschneider competed at N.I.U., U of I and Sycamore. The experiences were eye-opening and educational, especially to our 50 members who are Freshman experiencing competitive marching for the first time. The most rewarding experience this season was in Sycamore where the band received first place percussion, Colorguard, and drum major as well as a second place overall. In addition, the YHS Colorguard, once again, made vast improvements this year! Congratulations to the Marching Foxes!



New District #115 Music Faculty

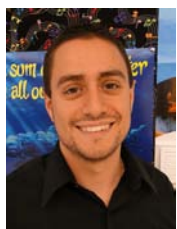


Rebecca Hof

Rebecca Hof graduated *summa cum laude* from Millikin University in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education emphasizing in vocal studies. She was a proud member of the internationally acclaimed Millikin University Choir, having the opportunity to tour around America's great mid-west and beautiful southwest as well as perform in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Beijing, China. She can be heard on the choir's latest CD, *Hearts All Whole*, just released this year. During her time at MU, Rebecca was a member of the Music Educator's National Conference, president of academic honors fraternity *Alpha Lambda Delta*, an Orientation Leader for Millikin freshmen, intern for Millikin's Children Choir program, vice-president of the University Choir, and a peppy co-chair of the Homecoming Committee.

Rebecca's side passion is theatre, most recently co-starring in a community production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* last summer where she played Mrs. Meers. In the last few years, she has been seen as the Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical the Musical*, Becky in *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, the assistant director of *Sweeney Todd* (high school production), and the choreographer for junior productions of *Godspell* and *Annie*. She hopes to combine teaching, music, and theatre into one fabulous lifestyle in the future.

Rebecca is excited to embark on her teaching career at Yorkville. She is a busy lady traveling and teaching at five schools in District #115. Rebecca directs the two high school women's choirs: Cantabile Chorale at YHSA and Bel Canto at YHS. She is the 6th grade general music teacher at Yorkville Intermediate School and Grande Reserve Elementary. She also teaches K-4 general music alongside Mr. Mike McHugh at Grande Reserve and Mrs. Patrice Lawson at Bristol Bay Elementary School.



Mike Lipinski

Mr. Lipinski received his Bachelor of Music Education from Northern Illinois University in 2007. During his time at NIU, Mr. Lipinski spent time teaching with several successful band programs, including the William Fremd High School Band in Palatine, and the Schaumburg High School Band. After graduating, Mr. Lipinski spent three years teaching band at Genoa-Kingston High School. There he established a competitive marching program as well as a successful concert ensemble, receiving Division I ratings at contests and festivals. He is excited to join the Yorkville staff as the middle school band director in an established program alongside great colleagues.

Currently, Mr. Lipinski performs as an active trumpet player in the Palatine Concert Band, performing band literature ranging from quality high school literature to the most professional standard pieces in the repertoire. In the summer of 2010, Mr. Lipinski also became a member of the Illinois Brass Band, playing cornet and performing in numerous cities and communities in Illinois. His principal trumpet teacher was Dr. Mark Ponzio. In addition to performing on the trumpet, Mr. Lipinski has performed as guest conductor with the Palatine Concert Band and has acted as pit orchestra director for Genoa Community Theater.

In his free time, Mr. Lipinski enjoys spending time with family and friends. He is a lifelong fan of the National Hockey League and tries to get on the ice whenever possible. Mr. Lipinski is currently completing a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership with Type 75 Administrative Certification at Aurora University.



Victoria Perez

Victoria (Tori) Perez graduated *magna cum laude* from Trinity Christian College in 2005 with a degree in Vocal Music Education. She performed in Trinity's Concert Choir and Campus Choir and worked as a student director. She also served as the student representative for the Teacher Education Committee for Trinity's Education Program.

Prior to coming to Yorkville, Tori worked for 5 years in School District U-46 in Elgin, teaching elementary general music and directing several choirs. There she helped foster a partnership between her school and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, as well as Judson University, to bring new musical experiences to at-risk students.

Tori is a member of the MENC (The National Association for Music Education), IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association), and the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association). She is very excited to be a part of Yorkville CUSD 115 as the General Music Teacher and Choral Director at Autumn Creek Elementary School.

Yorkville Student Musicians Succeed IMEA Honors Festivals

The Yorkville Music Department is proud of these talented students.

On Saturday, November 6, fourteen students from **Yorkville Middle School** performed at the Illinois Music Educators Association Junior Festival. The Festival was held at Willowbrook High School in Villa Park and was the culmination of auditions held one month earlier in October. All students experienced six hours of rehearsals with prestigious guest conductors with a concert presentation at 3:00 PM. It is a tremendous honor to be part of the IMEA District Music Festival.



Michael Pansera & May Priegal, trombone & violin, performed in the IMEA District VI Honors Band and Orchestra.

YMS Choral Students represented Yorkville in the IMEA District VI Honors Choir.

Back Row: L-R: **Madeline Nauert, Jessica Vacha, Rachel Augius, Anna Schleitwiler, Krystal Salazar, Sam Kiesewetter**

Front Row: **SarahAnn O'Malley, Charmaine Morris, Wynd Ridenour, Matt Schumacher, Josh Lindholm, Nick Miesuk**



Senior Festivals:

YHS students back: **Tyler Riederer** (choir), **Taylor Randall** (band) front: **Alexa Bridwell** (band), **Kori Haarz** (orchestra) were selected at the October 5th auditions at Addison Trail High School to participate in the November 20 Illinois Music Educators Association concert at Hampshire High School. The concert featured approximately 400 choir students, 160 band students and 160 orchestra students from sixty high schools in the District IX Festival. The Illinois Music Educators Association Senior High Festival was held Saturday, November 20, at Hampshire High School. Kori Haarz from the Yorkville Orchestra was selected to perform selections from :The Orchestra Academic Festival Overture by Johannes Brahms , Enigma Variations: Nimrod by Edward Elgar, and Symphony No. 5 Finale by P. I. Tchaikovsky . The Festival conductor was Kirk Muspratt who is the Music Director of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the New Philharmonic Orchestra and Artistic Director & Music Director of the DuPage Opera Theater. He teaches a graduate conducting class at VanderCook College of Music and has taught the Conductors' Studio at Illinois State University , The Conductors' Institute at the University of South Carolina, the Conductors' Guild National Workshops, the Association of Canadian Orchestra National Conference and the Westminster Choir College.



Ryan Smith (trombone) represented YHS as a member of the IMEA District IX Jazz Band 3. The Jazz Festival was held on November 13th at St. Charles North High School.



Culver's Fundraiser...

On Tuesday, November 9, members of Orchestra 44 and Just 2 Natural performed a variety of selections for the families that attended the Yorkville Music Boosters fundraiser. Lots of families attended the event. One Culver's worker stated, "This is the busiest we have been since summer time."



Orchestra BBQ at YMS

On Saturday, September 12, the Yorkville Orchestra Department held their 2nd annual BBQ Picnic for District #115 orchestra members and their families. There were over 249 participants that attended the beautiful sunny day event that was held at the Yorkville Middle School back parking lot and adjacent track field. Students and families of Mrs. Gyssler, Mr. Griffith, and Mr. Romack came together to grill burgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings on the 80 degree afternoon. Some students and family members were brave enough to try Mr. Romack's Nasty chili made with five different peppers including the infamous white ghost pepper.



Thanks go out to the family members that helped organize and run this event and many thanks to TimberCreek Farms and the families that have helped sponsor this event and have already offered sponsorship for next year's BBQ.

5th Grade Enrollment Strong!

The 2010 5th grade band and orchestra enrollment reached another record high for the second year in a row with 275 students. This is an increase of 20 students from last year's enrollment. 151 students are currently enrolled in beginning band and 124 students are enrolled in beginning orchestra. To get the students excited about the opportunities in music, all Yorkville 5th grade students attended a performance at Yorkville Middle School in September. The performance included music of the Yorkville Marching Foxes and the Yorkville High School Orchestra. During the weeks following, instruments were demonstrated by music faculty, and students were able to choose three instruments to try.

Once the students decided which instrument they would like to learn, an Instrument Open House was held on September 20th where students were able to sign up for band or orchestra.

The 5th grade band and orchestra students performed their Progress Concerts on November 16th and 18th. Students demonstrated what they have learned during the first five weeks of playing their instruments. This included various rhythms, new notes, and favorite songs from the method book. Music selections were introduced by students and included American folk melodies and children's nursery rhythms. Each concert was concluded with parent participation where families per-

formed a favorite song on their child's instrument. The Yorkville Music Staff is proud to continue to grow at the 5th grade level and looks forward to seeing these students develop throughout this year where they will give a culminating performance at the District Concert in May.

6th Grade Jazz Band

6th Grade Jazz Band began its third year of jamming this past November. The 6th Grade Jazz Band is an extra-curricular ensemble open to any 6th grade student interested in learning how to play jazz. We have students playing traditional jazz band instruments like saxophone and drum set, as well as non-traditional jazz band instruments such as oboe and euphonium. All students in

jazz band will learn how to play in different jazz styles, such as rock and swing. Additionally, all of our students will learn how to improvise off of the B^b blues scale, which is always very exciting!

6th Grade Jazz Band meets weekly on Mondays from 5:15-6:15PM at the YHS Band Room. The 6th Grade Jazz Band has two upcom-

ing performances: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 and Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Come see us jam!!

Private Lessons are the Key to SUCCESS:

Many private lesson teachers are available to Yorkville music students and more are becoming available every day as we continue to grow and attract more musicians to the area. Many professionals make a living playing music and are available to teach lessons to students at surrounding schools. We hope that you have taken a private lesson by now. If you haven't, this is the time to start! The school year is a great time to get into a new practice routine and start lessons. At Yorkville, we expect a lot out of the music students because we know what is possible when you really want to BE GOOD! It's no secret that the best musicians in our schools are the ones that take 30 minutes to an hour out of their week and study privately with a professional. Find a private teacher on the private instructor lists on our music web-sites.



Members of the YHS **Orchestra 44** performed several songs at the St. Patrick's benefit fundraiser on September 16, 2010. The Variety show featured many Local Yorkville groups displaying many different talents. The purpose of the fundraiser was to send money to the U.S. veterans that are serving overseas in Iraq. Members of the YHS performing ensemble were Angela Fiorito, Julia Heeren, Kolten Heeren, Dana Lacey, Gunnar Seilheimer, Kayla Schoeny, and Curtis Kager as a graduate guest member from last year.



YHS Music Student of the Term - Rachel Riemenschneider

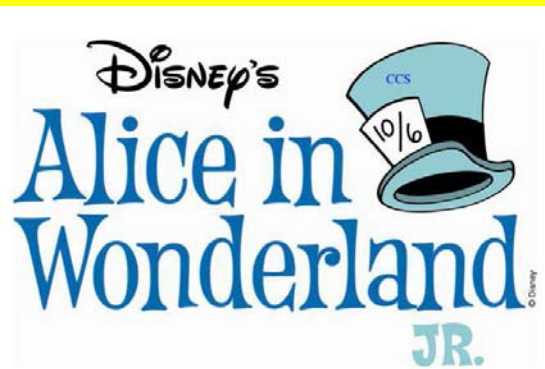
Junior, Rachel Riemenschneider was selected as student of the term by the music department for her exemplary leadership, initiative, maturity, and for being a superb role model. During Term 1, Rachel made a tremendous difference in our day to day operations of the band program. She set up our practice field daily. She helped maintain order and cleanliness in the band room. She assisted directors when needed. Often, she comes to the music office after school and asks, "Is there anything you need help with?" We put her to work every chance we can and she continues to come back for more....? Congratulations Rachel!

Check out the Yorkville Music web-site:

www.yorkvillemusic.org

- calendars of events
- booster links
- celebrations
- pictures
- forms
- Information

It's the place to bookmark!



Musicals Coming Soon!

On March 18 and 19, 2011 YMS will present *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* Tickets will be available on www.showtix4u.com



YHS will present their as-yet-unnamed musical on May 13 and 14, 2011 in the Auditorium. Tickets for that event will also be available at www.showtix4u.com.

