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South Portland Music Boosters

SUPPORTING MUSIC AT OUR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

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southportlandmusicboosters.org

Here's What's Happening

*The combined Middle Schools and High School Choirs will present a concert on January 9th at SPHS starting at 7:00 p.m.

*The 5th grade choirs will combine for an All-City Choral concert on January 16th at the high school. There will be a morning concert for 4th graders, and an evening concert for Family and Friends starting at 6:30 p.m.

The fourth grade students at **Small School** are learning to play the handbells. They are learning how to read the treble and bass clefs as well as reading note values and rests. They will practice each week until January 10th when they will give two concerts. They are playing on three octaves of bells which were funded through the school system and the South Portland Music Boosters. The bells will travel to Brown School after the concert so that the fourth graders there will have the opportunity to create beautiful music as well.

Rosemary Osann

The Skillin 4th graders are preparing for their handbell concert on January 31st at 6:00 PM. They are working very hard! The 3rd grade went to see the Nutcracker at the beautiful Merrill Auditorium on Nov. 27th. This trip was made possible by the Skillin PTA. K-3 students recently had the opportunity to see a woodwind quartet from the Portland Symphony orchestra at the High School. It was amazing to see professional musicians in real life! **Kristin Goodall**

5th Grade Band is off to a great start in all of our elementary schools! Students have been working hard on practicing the basics of their instruments, reading notes and rests, and learning how to play as an ensemble with other instruments around them. Be on the lookout for more information about Winter Parent Nights that will be in February at each school to give you an inside look at the beginning band world! **Jen Fletcher**

Memorial Music students have been working on scales, etudes and band music preparing for our first concert on Thursday December 13th. Some 7th and 8th Grade band students have prepared to audition for the Southern Maine Middle School Honors Festival. Some small group classes have been really lucky to have University of Southern Maine students working with them on Composition units! **Jean Quinn**

Mahoney Music students are involved!—Training and Performance Jazz rehearse diligently in the mornings, while 7th and 8th grade musicians auditioned for the District Honors Festival in October. Congratulations to all students who worked so hard to prepare the material and to experience the challenge of the audition process. 6th students will be hearing the results of the nominations to their Honors Festival soon. All of this happens in addition to the hard work in classes and rehearsals students demonstrate every week. We are studying new rhythms, scales and musical styles. While much of this work is independent, a key goal is to bring what is learned to ensemble rehearsals, where every person makes an important contribution. In rehearsals we study balance, blend, ensemble phrasing, and the ability to follow the conductor (this one is still in process!)

Sandy Barry

The SPHS Bands are off to a busy start. In August, seventy students reported for marching band camp for the new season. Playing the music of composers Pasek and Paul, the band has improved and progressed throughout the season. Also of note are the new uniforms the students are wearing, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Music Boosters as well as generous support from the school department. In October, 10 SPHS instrumentalists auditioned for the Maine All State Jazz Festival and another 25 for the District Honors Band. Later this year, South Portland will host both the All State Jazz Festival AND the Maine State HS Instrumental Jazz Festival.

Craig Skeffington

SPHS Vocal Music students have completed a busy fall of auditions and performances resulting in many students being chosen to participate in the All State Jazz Choir, District Honors Chorus, and All State Chorus. On November 8th, SPHS hosted the American Choral Directors' Association Fall Festival featuring 10 choirs from around Southern Maine. Over 400 students performed in the auditorium and enjoyed a day of inspiring choral music making. Our students loved the opportunity to hear other choirs and to perform for their peers.

The student-initiated "Scales of Males" a cappella group of tenors and basses has started at the high school and we will soon begin jazz choir rehearsals.

The high school singers will join the middle school choirs singing at the December 7th Tree Lighting at Mill Creek at 5:45 pm. A group of high school vocalists will also be providing caroling on Saturday, December 8th from 11-3 pm at Macy's for their Friends and Family event, and the Tri-M Music Honor Society will be heading to Sable Lodge on December 16th to perform for the community there.

Michelle Snow

Events and Opportunities

HIGH SCHOOL

Thurs. Jan 3-Jan 5: HS Jazz All-State Festival SPHS HOST***volunteer at southportlandmusicboosters.org**
Weds. Jan 9: MS/HS Choral Concert 7:00 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 18-Sat. 19: HS D I Honors Festival York HS
Sat. Jan. 26: Berklee Jazz Festival
Sat. March 2: MBDA Jazz Festival Westbrook HS
Sat. March 9: UNH Jazz Festival
Fri.-Sat. March 15-16: HS State Jazz Festival SPHS HOST***volunteer at southportlandmusicboosters.org**

ELEMENTARY

Weds. Jan 16 5th All-City Choral Concerts 10:00 a.m./6:30 p.m. (snow date Thurs. Jan 17)
Weds. Jan 30 Skillin Handbell Concert, Skillin School

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Weds. Feb. 13: MS District Jazz Festival, Westbrook MS
Fri.-Sat. March 1-2: SMMSHF (MS Honors Festival) Westbrook MS
Sat. March 9: 6th Honors Festival Scarborough MS
Weds. March 13: Mahoney Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
Sat. March 23: MS State Jazz Festival Westbrook MS

ALL-DISTRICT

Mon. Jan. 14: MUSIC BOOSTER MEETING, HS Learning Commons 6:30 p.m.***Please consider attending!**
March 19: SP Jazz Night 6:30 p.m.

