




GRAND LEDGE MUSIC BOOSTER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first newsletter for the 2010 and 2011 school year. We hope the year is filled with enjoyable music and our students receive an enriched year to help them achieve “high notes” in their education. The GLMBA is continually working hard to give back to our schools to help them achieve this success.

We will highlight what is going in our schools and keep you informed of our fundraising efforts. We encourage each of you to get involved by attending our meetings, participating in the fundraisers, supporting our concerts and events, or making your tax deductible donations. Thank you for taking the time to visit our website and staying informed.

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ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC PARENTS: Would you like band camp or choir trips for *FREE*? Participate in the SCRIP fundraising program.

Some of you have heard about the music boosters SCRIP program. The SCRIP program is the High School’s fundraiser for the music program. Profits from gift card sales are split 50 – 50 between the child’s credit account and the boosters. The Boosters fund the two high school director’s funds as well as the 6 elementary music teachers.

What is it? Scrip is a gift card program. You would purchase gift cards through the GLMBA and the profits are split.

How much profit? Each company that participates with SCRIP offers a different percentage ranging from 1.5% to 17%.

What kinds of companies participate? There are countless companies that participate such as gas, grocery, restaurants, clothing and other retailers. You would have to go to www.glmba.org and click on the SCRIP link. It will get you to the scrip site where you can see the multitude of companies participating.

Does it cost anything? It cost NOTHING but time and pre-planning. If you buy a \$100 gift card, you get a \$100 gift card. That is the beauty of this program.

What can I use my SCRIP credits for? You can use your credits for any non taxable music expense such as trips, band camps, uniform rental, music lessons, etc. All you have to do is: pay the bill, get the reimbursement form and submit it after the director has approved the expense. Just like the private lesson reimbursements are done currently.

Do I set up an account for each of my children? NO, it is a family account. If you have 1, 2, or 10 kids in the music program, there is only 1 scrip account. You can request reimbursement at any time for any child.

Can I have grandparents and other friends order also? YES, anyone can order. The more cards sold the more credits you will earn. Just make sure that they fill out the form properly. I have families that have a form at work and their co workers join in. The family just sends in 1 form with everything ordered on it (multiple checks per order are ok).

How do I join? This is simple too. Go to the website (www.glmba.org) print off the enrollment form and the order form. Fill those out; get them to your director (NOT THE SCHOOL OFFICE!!). Orders are due on Tuesday by noon and the gift cards go to the directors to pass back out on the following Monday.

Each of the middle school directors has a SCRIP order box. The boxes will keep the orders (check or money orders only) until they are picked up.

Most participants haven't changed any of their spending habits and have built up quite a bit of credit for their child's future use.

If you have further questions on this program, please don't hesitate to email Denise Hedlund, Vice President of Fundraising.



BEAGLE ELEMENTARY by Linda Winters

Beagle Elementary students were off to a great start this past fall!

September lessons included many activities/songs to “blend” us together. We truly got to know each other and brought the best from all of our previous elementary schools over to our Beagle music program! We love our new music room and are very appreciative of the circle/music rug that was purchased through a combination of Grand Ledge Music Boosters and Beagle Elementary funds.

In October, we listened to Bach's Toccata and Fugue in d minor, and Holst's Venus from The Planets as we moved creatively behind the shadow screen.

Beagle fifth grade students performed at the Color Cruise & Island Festival, held at Island Park, on Friday, October 8th at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Our theme was “School Daze” in honor of our new elementary school. The weather was beautiful and the fifth graders were wonderful for their first show of the year!



Fifth grade students performing at the Color Cruise & Island Festival

Fifty-six Beagle fifth and sixth grade students have come together to form the BEAGLE RECORDER PERFORMING ENSEMBLE! They played music in the balcony at the Opera House during Home Tour weekend on December 4th, and also at our holiday program!!

November music classes were filled with holiday music! Our Beagle Holiday Program took place on two evenings this year, with half of the school performing on each night. There was singing, partner songs, swing dancing, recorders, Orff ensemble and Irish step dancing.



Neff Early Childhood & Kindergarten Center by Josh Austin

In the early part of the school year at Neff, music class was about developing children’s habit of participation, habit of singing and auditory memory. We have been singing and playing with many songs that have strong emphasis on the resting tone and movement on the beat of the music. Most of our singing is unaccompanied with instruments, but accompanied, indeed, with great amounts of symbolic movement. Each song has its own set of movements or special coinciding game. This develops each child’s sense of long and short, rhythm, melody, space and time, social interaction and regard for adults and each other. I have had a wonderful time getting to know these young children and they seem to appreciate music class greatly. It is my job to make each music class tremendously joyful for these children and so far I think most classes have been.



Wacousta Elementary and Beagle 1st Grade Classes by Ellen Hoard

The school year had a great start. I am teaching full-time at Wacousta, although I travel to Beagle at the end of the day on Tuesday and Thursday to teach the two first grade classes. At Wacousta, where the students are blended together from several former elementary schools, the students are interacting well with each other.

The dates for The Wacousta Elementary school performances have been set, so please mark your family calendars with them and plan to join us.

Grade 6 – Evening Performance - title to be determined

Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Grade 4 – Informance performance in Wacousta gym:

Friday, May 6, 2011 from 9:30-10:30 AM

Wacousta will also have a group of students perform at the Grand Ledge Music Boosters Showcase of Music on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

During the week of October 25-29 the Wacousta 1-3 grade classes held music class informance visits. Our parents were invited to attend class and encouraged to join in the classroom activities with their children. We had nearly 80 visitors to these classes for a delightful sharing of music fun.

The fourth grade classes have been studying about Mozart and his opera, The Magic Flute. The fifth grade classes were cast into their roles for Tall Tales and Heroes that took place on December 9, 2010. The sixth grade classes finished studying the musical Oklahoma, and learned about West Side Story.

The first grade classes at Beagle have been busy learning many songs and games. Some of our favorites have been The Peddler where students get to guess which mystery percussion instrument is played at the end of the song, Pumpkin Stew where children use rhythm sticks for keeping the macro beats many different ways and pretend to cook a stew, and The Robbers where they have played a game by enacting the song, and practiced feeling and playing the macro beats while marching and playing the Orff instruments.



Willow Ridge Elementary by Deborah McMartin-Finkel

Our school year started off great with music making happening full-time at Willow Ridge. First graders have had their “informance,” sharing with their families the kinds of things they are learning in music class. They sang about the instruments of the orchestra and rapped about our “Five Standards to Live By.” The first graders shared songs about caring for others and caring for themselves, as well as celebrating their new adventures in

reading. We enjoyed putting the informance together and sharing it with our friends and families.

Second graders told the story of the First Thanksgiving on November 22, when our little Pilgrims and Native Americans performed for our school and then their parents. Each student had either a line to learn, an instrument to play, a duet to sing or a dance to dance, along with the singing of all the group songs. We wore the costumes our retired teachers made for us a number of years ago.

Third grade students worked on honing their instruments (the voice) with a lot of singing, doing some round singing and learning a little more about solfege and notes on the staff through a form book.

Fourth graders are playing the recorder and earning their Recorder Karate belts. Like previous years fourth graders, they approach their belt earning with great enthusiasm. On November 6 fourth grade had a mini opera workshop with guest artist, Lucy Finkel, who shared her knowledge of opera and her experiences being a singer. Accompanied by Mary Rodeck, Lucy sang three beautiful arias for our students, each one in a different language, French, Czechoslovakian and Italian. Our fourth graders were full of questions and seemed to find the experience inspiring. I base this on the words of one of our fourth grade boys, who told me he wants to sing opera NOW.

Fifth graders finished composing variations on “Clickety Clack,” a familiar children’s song. It was quite a treat to read/sing all their variations at the completion of the project. Along with sixth grade they learned the “Ghostbuster” movement sequence and performed during our Halloween parade on October 29. Did you know “Ghostbusters” is in rondo form (or nearly so). The song provided us with a great opportunity to review rondo form and have a good time doing so.

Though I miss the littlest ones in our building, I am thoroughly enjoying having sixth graders. Not only do I have the opportunity to see four sixth grade classes at Willow Ridge, I travel to Delta Center twice a week to see another class as well. These BIG kids are a treat to work with. They have energy, ideas and a wealth of music experiences behind them, making them ready and, for the most part, willing to be music makers.

So that is Willow Ridge in a nutshell. It has been a good year so far. I expect the trend to continue. Too see and hear more about what we are doing at Willow Ridge visit our Willow Ridge Music website at <http://willowridgemusic.edublogs.org/>



Hayes Middle School Band by Tavia Zerman

The Hayes Middle School band program has had a great first trimester! There are around 170 musicians involved in the 7th Grade, 8th Grade and Symphonic Bands, with approximately 130 beginning musicians coming to Hayes in the morning before heading to their 6th grade classes at the elementary schools.

The sixth graders have been playing for about two months and are making excellent progress. Their debut performance was December 14th at the GLHS auditorium. The two bands with 8th graders (8th Grade Band and Symphonic Band) shared the stage with the High School Marching Band at the Fall Festival of Bands in October. The students performed again on December 1st with the GLHS Wind

Symphony. The 7th Grade Band had its first performance of the year on December 2nd with the GLHS Symphony Band and Concert Band.

Hayes was represented at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 8 Solo and Ensemble Festival in Charlotte on November 13th by approximately 93 events. The students worked hard and had a great day of music-making and learning!

In addition to all these band functions, we currently have many students participating in private lessons, with more adding every week. This program is part of the reason that the bands here are so strong and can be highly beneficial to students of any playing level. If any Hayes parents are interested in more information or in getting their students enrolled in this program they should contact Mrs. Zerman at school. Forms to be filled out for partial reimbursement for prepared lessons (thanks, GLMBA!) are also available from the music directors. These forms can also be found on Mrs. Zerman's webpage through the GLPS website.



Grand Ledge High School Choir by Sheri Tulloch

The Grand Ledge High School Choirs have had a great start to the 2010-2011 school year. It actually started in August when Madrigals attended the first annual retreat at Columbiere Retreat Center in Clarkston, MI. We sang, played, ate and bonded. A big thank you to the fearless chaperones: Mrs. Deb Stevenson, Mr. Keith Barber and Mrs. Gail Wilcox.



The GLHS choirs continue to grow this year! Cadet Choir has 70 members, Vocal Ensemble has 50 members, Concert Choir has 65 singers and Madrigals is at 26 members this year. Legendary Ladies, 36 members strong, continues to meet on Friday afternoons. Chorduroys has 35 members and has moved to Monday evening rehearsals.

All choirs performed in Fall Concerts on either October 20 or October 27 with the Hayes Middle School choirs. Both concerts were a great showcase of choral music. We were honored to have guests the MSU Accafellas and MSU Ladies First at our concerts.

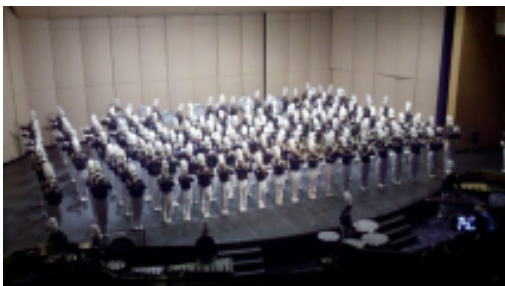
Congratulations to Linda Burns (10th grade), David Horak (10th grade) and Tyler Martin (11th grade) for being chosen for the Region B Honors Choir. They joined other members of the choir at WMU on December 4 for a rehearsal and a performance. During the day they also auditioned for State Honors Choir.

West Side Story was a success this past fall and here is a picture of the cast.



Grand Ledge High School Band

The High School Marching Band had an active first trimester. Here are some photos of some of their activities.



Other Music Booster Information

- **Nancy Lange/Michael Kaufman Scholarship**

The GLMBA every year awards up to \$1000 per scholarship to a deserving senior. There is an essay written by all who wish to be considered.

This scholarship is funded by direct contributions from the wonderful patrons of the Grand Ledge Music Booster Association.

If you would like to consider donating please see our website for further instructions on where to mail your tax deductible donation to.

WWW.GLMBA.ORG

- **Showcase of Music**

The showcase of Music is in April. This show allows K-12 music to show off their wonderful skills to the community. It is a good will donation show with proceeds going to the GLMBA. Please see our website for further details of dates of the show.

WWW.GLMBA.ORG

- **Sponsorship**

If you wish to contribute a tax deductible donation to GLMBA, please feel free to do so. GLMBA is a 501-3C charity. You will receive a tax deductible letter. Please see our website for further information about this and where to mail your check to.

WWW.GLMBA.ORG

- **New Banner**



The GLMBA purchased a new banner this past fall and displayed it above the concession stand at the home football games.