Westfield Students Selected For Honors

Congratulations to the Westfield High School and Roosevelt Intermediate School students selected for Regional and State Honors. At RIS, Isabella Gelfand (highest score in the Soprano II section) and Katie Truch were selected in the Soprano II section for Regional Honors.

At WHS, seven students were accepted into the 2012 Region II Mixed and Women's Choruses. Those selected for the Mixed Chorus were Mary Barber, Elizabeth Griesmer, Michael Kirkland, Matt Lynn, and Geoffrey Ko. Megan Pinna and Melanie Snyder were selected for the Women's Chorus.

In band, five students were selected for Region II Ensembles, and two for All-State. Jeff Marino was selected for orchestra for both Region II and All-State; Clayton Beyert was selected for Symphonic Band for Region II and All-State; Chris Walsh and David Verchick were selected Symphonic Band for Region II; and Jon Clancy was selected for Region II for Percussion Ensemble.

In December 2011, WHS sophomores Kristin Hauge and Yixue (Lily) Wang played piano at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City as first place winners in the Russian Music Festival sponsored by the Talented Young Musicians Association. Kristin played Khachaturian’s Toccata and Yixue performed Medtner’s Fairytale Op. 20 No. 1. Kristin Hauge also performed on the piano at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in May 2011 as a Gold Award Winner in the Golden Key Music Festival, and at the Bickford Theater in Morristown in November 2011 in the Honors Recital sponsored by the Music Educators Association of New Jersey. Yixue Wang also performed at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in May 2011 in the Young Artist Division of the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey.

Westfield Schools Place First in Forensic Competition

The Drama Competition Team of the Westfield Public Schools wrapped up the year with outstanding results at the Rumson Country Day School Forensic Competition. Isabella Gelfand was awarded First Place Overall in the Declamation Category for 8th Grade; Sophie Hurwitz and Sara Frankel received Fourth Place Overall for 7th Grade Dramatic Pairs Category; Julian Mazzola earned Fourth Place Overall, Declaration Category for 6th Grade; and Daniel Coelho was awarded Fourth Place Overall, Declaration Category for 9th Grade. A total of 21 students represented the Westfield Public Schools with over 200 students and 10 schools participating in the statewide competition. The picture in order from Left to Right: Isabella Gelfand; Sara Frankel; Sophie Hurwitz; Julian Mazzola; Daniel Coelho.
**Westfield High School Art**

The first semester World Crafts Sampler classes at Westfield High School are coming to an end. Lauren Schwarzenbek’s students are finishing up the semester with several new projects for the course. Students have been weaving baskets and creating their own designs using small, medium and large round reed as well as flat reed and raffia. They are also designing a felted bookmark. Several art teachers in the Westfield School District attended the Art Educators Conference in October, where felting was the new craze. Crafts students are now joining in on the craze! Crafts students are now joining in on the craze!

Mrs. Hatzikyriakou’s Crafts and Foundations students have been working in a variety of mediums during the second marking period - paint, marker, paper collage, and tile mosaic to name a few! In Crafts students studied the ancient art making of mosaics and completed a 2D & 3D piece in this style. Landscape scrap paper mosaics were created followed by frames, flower pots, and tin cans covered in a mix of glass, ceramic, and mirror tiles. Foundations of Art students have furthered their study of color theory by completing monochromatic, complementary, and warm/cool color paintings and drawings.

Foundations of Art students have completed “Conceptual Self-Portraits“; the paintings were done with acrylics paints on canvas. The student artists will begin to critique the works following a guideline which enhances the student artists’ skills to review and discuss artworks. The next endeavor for the Foundations of Art students is to focus on the human figure, with two lessons interjected following figure drawing...visual puns and landscapes. Please note ...March is Youth Art Month!

The Fall Semester ends on a very creative note, ceramic students enjoyed the session with guest artist and master potter, Don Nose. Mr. Nose demonstrated proper technique and form for throwing a clay pot on the potter’s wheel. The students were able to execute individual wheel thrown pots as a result of the newly acquired knowledge. The ceramic students’ wheel thrown pots culminate with the glazing of the unique work of art.
Music

The WHS Bands have launched a new website! Please visit [www.westfieldhsbands.org](http://www.westfieldhsbands.org) for updated schedules, pictures, and all information pertaining to the band program at Westfield High School.

The WHS Wind Ensemble and Concert band gave their first performance of the 2011-2012 school year on Monday evening, January 9. With a great turnout, both bands gave terrific performances. Both ensembles are now preparing their programs for the Central Jersey Music Educators Association Concert Band Festival to be held the week of March 19, 2012. The Concert Band is preparing works by Carl King, Robert Sheldon, and Pierre LaPlante while the Wind Ensemble is preparing a program with works by John Philip Sousa, William Schuman, and Roger Cichy. Both programs are very challenging and consist of contemporary works as well as old “standards.” The band will be showcasing their hard work in a performance scheduled for Sunday March 18th in the WHS auditorium at 3 pm.

The WHS Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Raymond Wojcik enjoyed a triumphant concert season in December. The Westfield community’s accolades were abundant for the exceptional musicianship demonstrated by the students and for programming choices. The members of the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band who were the wind, brass and percussion section of the orchestra and who put in much extra rehearsal and performance time deserve an extra note of thanks for their commitment. The Chamber Orchestra performed two demanding programs brilliantly. The collaboration with the WHS Concert Choir was a huge success and brought in faculty members Mr. Barry Furrer, Mr. Chris Vitale as well as Mr. Raymond Wojcik in the brass section.

The students are now at the beginning of their rehearsal process for an array of concerts scheduled in March, April, and May. Special attention will be on the music of composer John Williams whose 80th birthday is being celebrated in the music world this year. The Symphony Orchestra will be performing a suite culled from the film scores Williams composed for the “Star Wars” films. The Chamber Orchestra will perform the moving theme from “Schindler’s List”.

The rest of the orchestra’s programs will be music by Beethoven, Saint-Saëns, Respighi, and others.

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Lily Wang also performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in May 2011 in the Young Artist Division of the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey.
Roosevelt Intermediate Music

The winter months are a bit calmer around the RIS band room. We have just finished our winter concerts, and with the spring concerts five months away we have a chance to have some fun and focus on learning...without having to worry about a public performance!

The new year began with a variety of improvisation activities. Students in each grade had the opportunity to improvise and accompany each other, using specific major scales. For some of the 6th grade students, this was their first exposure to the idea of "making up" new melodies on the spot, using the notes in a Bb major scale. They were a little apprehensive at first, but within a day or two they got the hang of it, and now it is all they want to do. The 7th and 8th grade students have also been working on improvisation activities, and they are at a more advanced level, where they can change scales/chords every few measures. In fact, we have been using improvisation to practice our major scales (it's a lot more fun than playing them up and down from a piece of paper!)

The bands have also been sight reading quite a bit. We are doing this to improve our sight reading skills, but also to decide on what pieces we would like to prepare for our spring concerts. The students enjoy the opportunity to give different works a try, and their input plays a major role in the selection process for our spring program.

At the end of this month, the 8th grade will begin their winter project. They will be divided into groups of 5, given a piece of music, and will be given a performance date about one month in the future. The students will be responsible for learning, practicing, and rehearsing as a group outside of the classroom. They will chart their progress by reporting back each week on what they have been working on, what has been accomplished, and what their next step will be. It is the first time they have been asked to complete such a task, and they are ready for the challenge!

The RIS jazz bands- The Accidentals and Morning Jazz- are also working on picking new literature for their upcoming spring performances. Venues coming up include Westfield High School, Union County College, Roosevelt Intermediate, and Hershey, PA. Needless to say, the groups are very excited about the additional performances scheduled and look forward to preparing new tunes.

Check out our next issue for an update on the 8th grade project, upcoming jazz performances, and a repertoire list for our 2012 spring concerts! Until then, stay groovy!

With the start of the New Year the Check Presented to Cranford School

Westfield Public School students comprising the cast and crew of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," the Roosevelt Intermediate School (RIS) fall play, recently donated over $500 to the Brookside School in Cranford to assist with the school's recovery efforts following Hurricane Irene. The fundraising effort was conceived by RIS parent Amy Flax, who suggested donating the play's proceeds from ad sales and audience contributions to Brookside. Pictured above presenting the donation are Erica Hodges, the play's assistant director; Linda King, fine arts supervisor for the Westfield Public Schools; Kim Jonny, director; Michael Klimko, principal of Brookside School; and RIS students Jessica Zimmermann ("Alice"), Frank Guerriero ("White Rabbit") and Jason Starita ("Tweedle Dee"). They are shown outside of Washington School in Garwood, one of four temporary locations housing the displaced Brookside students.
RIS vocal music students have focused their attention on a variety of enjoyable activities. The eighth graders are doing what we call our "guitar-piano split". Half the class is learning guitar with Mr. Losco, and the other half is studying piano with Mrs. Romero. The students really enjoy this activity and are having a blast learning to play these instruments.

RIS seventh grade students are working on mastering chromatic and diatonic melodies, while learning the process of labeling their music. By labeling both pitch and rhythm, students can learn entire pieces of music rather than simply hearing and echoing back.

Music history and the evolution of Western music have gripped the attention of the RIS sixth grade sections. While learning valuable musical concepts, they are enjoying themselves and are totally immersed in this very interesting unit.

**Edison Intermediate Art**

At Edison Intermediate School, Miss Wolff is teaching lessons that focus on artists from all over the world. She is teaching her sixth graders about Russian artist, Wassily Kandinsky, and how he helped start the art movement, German Expressionism, in the early 1900's. The students listened to various types of musics that evoke different moods, and created non-objective artwork to reflect those particular moods. Non-objective art is artwork with no recognizable subject matter from real life in it. They then used watercolor pencils to color their designs in. Her seventh graders learned about artist George Segal, and how he used paris-craft (gauze impregnated with plaster) to create life sized human sculptures. The students first learned how to create gesture drawings using their peers as models. They then created their own gesture sculptures using the same medium as George Segal himself. The students used paint, fabric, and other mixed media to create their sculptures. Miss Wolff eight grade Arts and Crafts students are creating "ugly dolls". They are using felt and other fabric to create dolls that have funny quirks to them. They are learning how to sew, as well as how to brainstorm to create a doll that is charming in a non-conventional way.

Mr. Black’s class continues to bustle with excitement and new projects. The 7th grade classes are working on figure sculptures and collagraph prints. Sixth grade students have just finished a unit on cartooning and cartoon cells and have been working on plaster wrap sculptures of monsters and critters. The 8th grade Fine Arts classes have been fusing together ornaments and glass catchers made out of glass as well as working on portraits engravings (printmaking), and oil painting landscapes. 8th grade Arts and Crafts is etching glass, working on masks and sewing together ugly dolls. In addition, Mr. Black has begun construction and design of the set for the Spring Musical Cinderella.

Students in Mrs. Frees Crafts class are studying mask making throughout the world by researching in the library African, Native American and Eastern Cultures. Students selected a mask as inspiration and will be using the information they learned about their mask in their final critique. Students studied the
False Face Society of the Iroquois and learned about recent efforts by the tribe to remove the masks from museums due to sacrilege. The mask is never to be seen by anyone outside of the trib. Having the mask hung in a museum defies the spiritual law of the Iroquois.

Students in Fine Arts recapped their trip the Modern Museum of Art with a project on Acrylic Painting and encaustic painting Murals. They viewed the work of Diego Rivera (the first exhibit since 1931 in NYC) and are creating an American themed mural inspired by the political works of his. They are also painting a tribute to the first Frida Kahlo painting. 8th grade Fine Arts students are also creating a mural inspired by the Pop art they studied in creating large scale grid portraits. They are making a mural of IPods similar to the famous Campbell’s Soup cans by Andy Warhol. They are now beginning to study Impressionism and Abstract Expressionism and their differences through oil painting.

Sixth Grade students just finished a project on animals where they were to use value in pencil drawing, use oil pastel and also watercolor. They researched their animal for interesting facts and they presented the information at the final critique of their work. They are now making plaster sculptures of morphed animals such as a lionzebra from recycled materials.

Seventh Grade students learned about Geologic time in their science classes with Mr. Parke and Ms. Yellin. The teachers had the students pick a time period and learn about the creatures that existed in that time period. They then came to art class and learned about the prehistoric creatures, and turned them into clay sculptures. The students learned different types of hand-building in clay and are creating informational displays about their creatures to be displayed outside the cafeteria. It was a wonderful cross curricular lesson.

Mrs. Frees has been hosting a sewing club after school and the students created Kanzashi Japanese flowers, sewn soft sculpture and are going to be working on making handbag.

**Music**

Students in the EIS 6th and 7th grade vocal music classes are working on their winter projects, researching composers from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic & Contemporary periods. Students will be performing works by their composer, conducting interviews, facilitating game shows and making other creative and imaginative presentations during January and February.

The EIS 8th Grade Chorus is busy rehearsing for their performance in the annual EIS Black History Month program in February. The chorus room is buzzing with the sounds of spirituals and various patriotic tunes.

The EIS Broadway Singers had a very busy winter season concertizing for all of the Southside elementary schools, Lincoln School and for the community in the annual Holiday Concert sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department. They are presently preparing for
their adjudication at the Teen Arts Festival in March.

After two successful concerts in December and in January, the EIS sixth grade and seventh grade bands are currently beginning the process of learning music for their respective spring concerts. The students will also be learning and reviewing the fundamentals of music through writing, listening and playing. Basic composition skills will be introduced to the students by Mr. Wojcik so that students can think creatively in music.

The EIS 6th Grade String Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra played a very well-received concert on January 11. Contemporary composer Soon Hee Newbold was represented in three works of hers: “A Gypsy Tale, “Lion City”, and “Blue Fire Fiddlers” as well as contemporary composer Keiko Yamada, represented by her atmospheric “Amadare”.

The other works on the program were a suite from John Williams’ score to “Harry Potter”, and the finale to the Second Symphony by Tchaikowsky.

Sixth and seventh grade vocal music students have been spending time in the library researching composers from the Baroque through Contemporary periods and preparing presentations for their classes. As in past years, there are many exciting, creative and fun presentations planned such as musical performances, “interviews” with the composers and even a live Facebook profile.

Eighth Grade Chorus members are rehearsing for and organizing the upcoming EIS Black History Month Assembly on Friday, February 24 which has become an annual event organized by the vocal music department.

The EIS Broadway Singers are up and running, rehearsing music for their Spring season which will include performances at the Union County Teen Arts Festival, High Note Music Festival and EIS Spring Concert.

EIS Opera Company is busy creating a story line and working on the score for their original opera production to be performed in May.

Drama

The timeless enchantment of a magical fairy tale is reborn on the Edison Intermediate School stage. The students will bring to the stage all the charm and elegance of a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. Starring Eden Kettleson as Cinderella, Alex Cestero as Prince Charming with Erin Hanlon as the Fairy Godmother and Emma Ohlig, Emily Holtzman and Stella Billek as Stepmother and Stepsisters, the audience will be transported to the miraculous kingdom of dreams-come-true.

Cinderella will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 14-17. Advanced sale reserved seating tickets will be $8.00 and $10.00 at the door. Tickets will go on sale the week of March 6 (times TBA). The Thursday performance will be a special presentation for elementary students with all seats $5.00. Seating will be on a first come basis for this performance.

Franklin Elementary

The Art Students from Franklin School under the direction of Mrs. Coveney, are exploring a wide variety of media. The First Grade students are learning about the artist Henri Matisse and his love for vibrant color and patterns. A still life is being drawn and oil pastels are the medium of choice.

The Second Grade students are creating a landscape using line to show perspective and distance. Craypas will add to the depth of the drawing and foreground, middle ground and background can be seen and experienced.

The Third Grade students observed the work of Eric Carle and how a collage was created through the use of painted paper. Warm, cool and neutral colors will be painted used to assemble a “Rooster” with its vibrant tail feathers and personality.

The Fourth Grade students will be observing Gargoyles and its history. An evening sky, architectural structure and body will be drawn and shaded on construction paper. Model magic will be used for the 3-D head, which will then be added for texture and dimension.

Mrs. Marylee Massenazio, art teacher, and Mr. Brent Geyer, music teacher, collaborated on a wonderful cross curriculum project for the fifth grade students at Franklin School. The children learned about the Aboriginal people of Australia, their history and traditions, through the creation of a musical instrument called a didgeridoo. The didgeridoo is believed to be the world’s oldest wind instrument, dating back thousands of years. Students gained a better insight and appreciation of the world around
them by learning about how other cultures express themselves through art and music.

It’s amazing what a smile can do. Not only can it make you feel happier, but it also makes others around you feel happy. That’s what we’ve been focusing on in second and third grade music, including the positive effects that music can have on a person. As part of every lesson, students will be focusing on the theme of being positive which will include songs, dances, and acting parts for their Music in Our Schools Month concerts. This positive concert will include songs like “I’m Letting it Go” and “I’d Rather Be Happy”. Details about the two daytime concerts will be available on Mr. Geyer’s website in the coming weeks.

Students are also learning about the orchestra and the many instruments in it. They are identifying the instruments’ timbre, tone production, and position in the orchestra. A great website to help explore this topic is www.nyphilkids.org. The students have used this on the smartboards, played games, and have seen professional musicians from the New York Philharmonic demonstrate the instruments. Just recently the students had the opportunity to see members of the Westfield Symphony demonstrate on their instruments and discuss the moods different music can create.

In fifth grade, students have been discussing both the treble and bass staves, along with reading the notes from both staves. They’ve also continued their study of their composer of the month, Mozart and his “Ah! Vous dirais-je maman” variations, also known as the “Twinkle Variations”. After learning the French folk song’s theme, students played along on the bells with each variation.

As a joint project, the fifth grade students also focused on songs from Australia as well as constructing a didgeridoo in Art with Mrs. Massenziio. The students sang and played with the famous folk song from Australia “Waltzing Matilda” which doesn’t refer to a girl dancing in ¾ time, but rather a swagman traveling with his matilda on his back from job to job and the troubles he runs into while resting by a billabong. The students later learned how to play their didgeridoos that they made as if they were Aborigines. It’s amazing the many sounds you can make on this instrument from a

**Fundraising Opportunity**

A unique fundraising event has been established in cooperation with the Westfield High School Art Department, the Rotary Club of Westfield and the WHS PTSO. Students and faculty of WHS have spent the last few months creating one of a kind birdhouses. A silent auction will be held for the purchase of the 35 hand crafted birdhouses on March 3, during the annual Rotary Club of Westfield Pancake Breakfast, which is held at the Westfield high school from 8am until noon. The proceeds from the sales will go directly to the Fine Art Department of WHS. A selection of these houses will be on view at the Westfield Memorial Library, in the Teen Zone area located on the first floor, during the month of February. The PTSO, which funded the birdhouses for fundraiser, will be allowing pre-bidding for the houses. Bids will be accepted, beginning February 1, via email. Pre-bidding will be closed on February 29. To make a bid, prior to the breakfast, please send your full name, phone, email, and indicate which house (number and name) and bid price to the WHS PTSO. We can be contacted at: whsptso@westfieldnj12.org. The starting bid will be $15 per house, with increments of $5 for each successive bid. Photos of all of the completed houses will be made available on the WHS PTSO* website as well as the Westfield Memorial Library during the month of February. These birdhouses are for indoor display only due to the nature of the material used.

*Go to www.westfieldnj12.org, and then select Westfield High School, then PTSO.
Fifth grade students are starting a new project that uses a new technique of paper mache where muslin cloth and wire structures (made from wire hangers) are used in addition to the normal newspaper for strength, durability, and versatility. We will be studying the work and life of the contemporary artist that pioneered this technique in Seattle, Dan “the monster man” Reeder. Mrs. Ciotti has one of his original artworks to show to the children. She has also been in direct contact with him and Mr. Reeder may choose to display some of the students finished projects on his website if they are exceptional.

Jefferson School’s First and Second Grade music students have used movement to highlight the differences in the length of note values. Of course, one of their favorites is the quasi-impossible 32nd! Both grade levels and Third Graders are also focused on reading. Our goal: 100 percent letter-name recognition of notes on the G Clef staff from all second and third grade students!

We are discussing and singing spirituals in preparation for our African-American History Month special assembly. All Jefferson School students are participating! We welcome our student teacher, Mr. Jeffrey Stier. He will work with music students at Jefferson and Wilson from January to March. We wish him the best!

**McKinley Elementary**

At the McKinley School, our first grade artists are listening to a variety of music styles and composers. As they hear the
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different tunes, the children use LINES to represent the mood of the music (soothing, angry, exciting etc.). After the painted lines have dried, the students will listen to a different selection of CDs and use COLOR to illustrate the mood of the music. During this lesson, we have been fortunate enough to have a special visit from our new music teacher, Miss Toulios, who was able to give the children background information about the different music composers while they were painting. Miss Toulios even joined in on the fun by creating her own "Musical Abstraction" with the class! The children in the second grade are studying the work of artist, Claude Monet. Claude Monet did not like school very much as a child (he used to draw funny cartoons of his teachers!) but as an adult, he practiced his talent by using oil paints to paint the great outdoors. The McKinley students are mixing water color paints to create their own original landscape scene. The Starry Night is the most famous painting by the artist Vincent Van Gogh.

The third grade students are learning about the life and style of this famous artist and creating their own abstract "Wind" paintings using swirling lines of hot and cold colors to imitate Van Gogh’s unique style. The fourth grade children are Ready, Set, Sew(ing)!! Using colorful burlap squares, each child will design an original sewing sampler which represents a variety of stylized sewing stitches. Our McKinley fifth grade artists are learning how to illustrate a three-dimensional object on paper by using 1-point perspective. The students will be practicing their new knowledge of this artistic technique by designing their own Imaginary Dream Bed Room.

The fourth grade music students at McKinley are busy writing their own songs. They are taking words from a children’s book, and adding their own melody line to go with it. After they have written the melody they will record the music through Garageband and create their own real songs. They will also be adding musical markings to indicate dynamics and form. Over the next few months they will be learning to sing partner songs, and how to follow music and their markings.

The fifth grade students are learning about Operas and are working on a project where they are interviewing Opera performers. After watching the video of the interviews they will write letters to the members of the Opera telling them what they learned about Opera. They are also going to be researching famous composers and the events that correspond with that time period. In Chorus they are starting to learn music for the Spring Concert on May 23rd and continuing to learn how to be great performers.

Tamaques Elementary

It’s a Winter Wonderland at Tamaques Elementary School for Lauren Schwarzenbek’s first grades, second grades, 35E and 13S. Students have been excited about snow since the early snowstorm in October. They have been making oil pastel winter scenes, cutting snowflakes and transforming them into snowmen and creating snow scene snow globes. Projects covered overlapping, foreground and background, demonstrating space in a 2D drawing, color blending and shading. Below are only a few of the amazing works of art!

Tamaques fifth grade students are learning how to manipulate digital images with Photoshop! They are utilizing selection tools, paint tools, and assorted filters to alter self-portraits with laptops, which were donated by the high school when their computer lab was upgraded!

The third grade is very excited by their current art project: weaving on cardboard looms! Always a favorite project, the students love taking the looms home to work outside of class! Shortly they will be learning how to remove their colorful creations and add beads to the fringe strings!

Grade four students have been studying the large-scale plaster sculptures created by artist George Segal. They have observed and
critiqued his plaster cast people in various installation settings. Afterward, they formed groups to brainstorm ideas to create their own versions of plaster people! Look for the finished works, which will include a hockey player, a surfer, and a child reading a book, just to name a few!!

The 1st and 2nd grade music students at Tamaques have been introduced to some of the greatest pieces of music that are unique for telling a story, including The Nutcracker, Hansel and Gretel, and Peter and the Wolf. In the coming months, these students will continue to listen to great selections of music while learning about history and culture along the way. Similar to the younger grades, the 3rd and 4th grades continue to sing a variety of songs to learn about the components of written notation. They look forward to using technology in the classroom to enhance their learning as they grow as musicians. The 5th grade succeeded in a wonderful and exciting Winter Concert performance. With their eyes set on All-City chorus auditions, students will be working on the basics of sight-reading and key signatures. In addition, small groups will be presenting research to their class on some of the most influential composers in history.

### Washington & Tamaques Bands

Washington and Tamaques School 4th grade band members are busy preparing for their Music in Our School's Month Band Assembly. Washington's 4th grade assembly will be held on Tuesday: March 6th at 9:30 AM. Tamaques' 4th grade assembly will be held on Friday: March 16th at 9:30 AM. The students are hard at work practicing both American and French Folk Songs as well as a classical composition by Mozart.

### Washington Elementary

First grade artists are mastering the concept of symmetry. They have learned how to achieve this perfect, mathematical balance using shape, color and design. This skill has recently been applied to a study of Egyptian art in the making of mummies.

In the second grade, students have prepared for a very special Chinese New Year celebration. They painted tress in the ancient Sumi-e style, designed colorful dragon puppets, and collaged unique fish representations.

At the third grade level, children are examining different aspects of Medieval and Renaissance art. This has included castle design, stained glass, and some printing projects.

In fourth grade, artists are enjoying the idea of abstraction. Thus far they have made abstract landscapes, colorful collages, and expressionist faces. Soon they will translate this art exploration into a dream painting.

Fifth grade students are continuing to focus on facial proportion. They have created very realistic self portraits and compared them to the faces they drew back in the first grade. They are looking forward to transforming their knowledge into a "Picasso-esq" Cubist face, very soon.

### Wilson Elementary

Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from the Mayor of Tokyo to the city of Washington, D.C. 2012 commemorates...
the 100th anniversary. Mrs. Massenzio’s 1st grade classes from Wilson School enjoyed learning all about this when they created their own beautiful Japanese Cherry Blossom paintings. In the spring, the class would like to plant a cherry blossom tree at school!

Using the collage technique, which promotes cutting and pasting skills, Mrs. Massenzio’s 2nd grade students created outer space pictures. The children learned all about planets, astronauts, and even created their own space aliens. The students learned the names of the 8 planets, and their order from the Sun. They loved this lesson, and the results were out of this world!

Leaps & Bounds students created 3-dimensional calico colored cats which were decorated, stuffed, and laced together using a plastic needle and yarn. They learned about symmetry, and what a pattern is. Students learned the difference between 2 and 3 dimensional. The children even created a small mouse out of Model Magic to complete their piece.

Leaps and Bounds and grades 3 through 5 are busy working on a special project that will be unveiled in May! Without revealing too much information, this project is designed to honor everyone’s mothers! The third graders are focusing on painting beautiful lilac branches and the fourth grade students have created extraordinary paintings of flower vases. The fifth grade students utilized markers and construction paper to design gorgeous symmetrical butterflies!

Ms. Ciaramella is working collaboratively with fellow Wilson School Art teacher, Ms Massenzio to complete this school wide project. It is sure to be a favorite this year!!

"Peace, love, and respect for everyone." That’s how Wilson School ends their morning announcements every day. It’s a motto that every student and staff member has adopted and its effect is evident in our classrooms. We’re kicking off the new year with songs that reflect our school’s desire to include others, assist those in need, and become better friends. These songs include "You Could Be My Friend," "Forever Friends," and "I Will Care About You." These songs help us see "eye to eye" and overcome our differences and even quote the golden rule, "Treat others the way you want to be treated." Even in music class, the students are always aware of opportunities to be "caught being kind." Kindness is something we can never live without and at Wilson, we don't intend to!

Wilson School’s Fourth Grade students have begun working on repertoire for an upcoming special presentation - their admirable Spanish skills have come in handy! They are also being introduced to the various voice classifications - from the dizzying heights of Joan Sutherland to the depths of Paul Robeson!

Our fifth grade students have stepped into the world of intervals and triads and have recently begun to explore improvisation above a 12-bar blues progression.

Lincoln School

The kindergarten students at the Lincoln School have been gearing up for the winter months by creating snowmen, snowflakes and penguins. The children really enjoyed building miniature
Snowmen from Model Magic clay and then decorating them with festive hats and felt scarves. The penguin project was a favorite as it incorporated table salt sprinkled on top of water color paints to create a colorful background sky.

The Preschoolers at Lincoln have been busy learning new songs and music stories. Some of our favorites have been 5 Little Snowmen, Knick Knack Paddy Wack, and A Ram Sam Sam. The Kindergarteners are preparing for their Sing-a-Long on March 29th. They are learning how to be a team and perform as a group. They are also learning a variety of new songs to perform. We have also been playing lots of games that are enforcing pitch matching, dynamics and vocal warm ups.

An 8-year run on Broadway and two subsequent revivals along with innumerable school and community productions place Grease among the world’s most popular musicals. The Edison cast brings this lively and funny musical—as well as the “dancingest” one in town to the Edison stage for a Rock ‘n’ Rollin’ evening of entertainment. It’s a winner!!