

September 11, 2008

Time to sign up for . . .



TOPS Music 2008-9

TOPS music programs will be starting soon, and there are several changes for the new school year.

TOPS Orchestra and String Quartet (Wednesday 7:50a-8:45, Monday 12:00p-12:45p, starting 9/17/08)

Fourth generation Washington resident **Valerie Coon** is our new orchestra director. Valerie is a recent graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, plays regularly in the Federal Way Symphony, the Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra, substitutes for the Seattle Symphony and does regular session work for Seattle Music. She improvises frequently, is learning jazz, and also plays rock violin with local band Bad Dream Good Breakfast. She promises to build on the foundation that Erica Johansen built up over the last few years, with a similar focus fun and interesting music, and to hunt down additional performance opportunities.

TOPS Band (Tuesday/Thursday – 12:00p-12:45p, starting 9/16/08)

Longtime Band director Paul Gillespie has left TOPS for a full-time music teaching position in Bellevue. TOPS is fortunate to welcome **David George** to our music staff for 2008-9. For the past six years, David has been the musical director at Soundview Private School in Lynnwood, during which time he developed a successful band curriculum and jazz band program. Last year he organized a nine day tour of Tokyo with the jazz ensemble performing for middle and senior high schools, international schools and community jazz clubs.

TOPS Guitar (Schedule TBA, most likely Tuesday/Thursday – 12:00p-12:45p, starting date TBA)

Our surveys have indicated that many of our students would like an opportunity to study guitar, so this year we have added a guitar component to our music program. Our first instructor is **Ryan Hoffman**, a jazz guitar player with the local band Pearl Django and other groups, and a player and teacher of many different styles. Ryan will bring plenty of enthusiasm and knowledge to the job!

TOPS Choirs (Schedule TBA, most likely Wednesday/Friday – 12:00p-12:45p, starting date TBA)

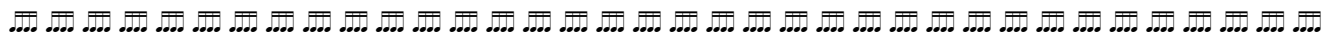
Sadly, we need to find a replacement for **Sari Breznau**, who is retiring from teaching our choirs. We are actively recruiting her replacement, and look for more information soon about a new Choir Director. No substantial changes are planned for the program, which includes the Hummingbirds Choir (Grades 3-4), and Inspire Choir (Grades 5-8).

K-2 Sing

We will continue to have in-class singing with our Kindergarten through Second Grade classes.

4th-5th Grade Beginner Instrumental Music

The Seattle School District provides one year of beginner instrumental music on a wide assortment of instruments. We are fortunate enough to again have Mark Oesterle as our teacher on Friday mornings. Families of 4th and 5th Graders will get information about the program from Mark.



In addition to the personnel changes, we are adding a small fee to our Instrumental programs (except for 4th/5th Grade Beginner Instrumental Music). The fee is \$25/semester or \$50/year. No child will be turned away for financial reasons, and attempt will be made to find instruments for children that don't have them.

For additional information contact Johnny Calcagno at 206-325-9134 or email johnny <at> calcagno.org