

# Mrs V's KEY ISSUES

## Piano Notes for March

### "PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT"

Practicing 100 minutes per week, one or more weeks, in February were: KATHY MOORE, WOODY GROSS, GUS GROSS, TANISHA THAKKU, ELLIE SOMMERS, MATTHEW NICHOLSON, HELEN NICHOLSON, MATT PENDLETON, AMBER CHONG, Jeena Pahlajani, IAN DUNCAN, OWEN DUNCAN, Lizzie Sanders, Jocie Nabeth, Mia Igleheart, Naomi Salinas, Mylo Gross, JODY KNIGHT, Agnes Wei, MELANIE VANDERSCHAAF, Nora Barba, Alyssa Miller, Hazel Chan, HARPER CHAN, BRAYDEN CHAO, AUNDREA KHIM, Enid Stoutenburg Amadeus Stoutenburg, Sophia Stoutenburg, Gene Kwee, and CAIDEN MALDONADO. Students who practiced at least 100 minutes per week, each week, the ENTIRE month (for which they will receive PIANO DOLLARS) are listed in capital letters. Congratulations!!!

### SPRING BREAK!

NO LESSONS Mar 9<sup>and</sup> Mar 12-Mar 15. Please note, Thursday students DO come the Thursday of Spring Break instead of March 9<sup>th</sup>. Also, Sunday students DO come March 19<sup>th</sup> at the end of Spring Break.

### ICY DAY MAKE-UP LESSONS

Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> is the makeup day for Tuesday cancelled lessons during the January icy day. Students should come for their makeup lessons at the same times they would normally attend on Tuesdays. Please confirm your Saturday makeup lessons. Thank you!

### HOW IMPORTANT ARE GUILD AND THE RECITAL?

Think about it -- when your child is signed up to play sports, do you ask the coach how important the championship game is?! During finals week at school do you ask the teacher if it is necessary for your child to take the test? BE THERE PLEASE!!! BOTH are important.

### OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

February outstanding students are Caiden Maldonado and Melanie Vanderschaaf. Both Caiden and Melanie ALWAYS practice every single day and come to lessons so very well-prepared!! WAY TO PLAY!! Congratulations to you both!!

### PIANO GUILD/RECITAL/PARTY UPDATES

Piano Guild Auditions this year will be either the first or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May. I will let you know as soon as I know! I will be doing a "practice" guild April 23-27, as I have done in years past, so that students are familiar with entering through the garage door and then from there into the house, which is how it will be when the judge is here in May. Having guild auditions in my home has been a real bonus since students feel more comfortable auditioning with the piano they play on each week (just as I did growing up -- guild auditions were always in my piano teacher's home!).

I will be scheduling studio piano recital times (taking place the afternoon of Saturday May 20) AND guild audition times (probably the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May) towards the end of March, so if you have a preference for a specific time or day, please let me know as soon as possible. Keep in mind that performing for Piano Guild is an excusable absence from school (the judges hours are 9am to noon, and 1pm to 5:30pm Monday through Friday).

Students should now be finishing memory of *all* GUILD pieces by the end of Spring Break. As of NOW, I am awarding "hearts" for *polished* pieces. (For each polished piece -- perfect scale & cadence, solid memory, all signs of expression followed and mistake free ending -- students hang a heart on a tree in my living room.) Also, per the Vanderschaaf Piano Studio tradition, those students polishing every song will receive a trophy -- with their name engraved on it! -- at the recital.

### MARCH PRACTICE

During March, practice times should increase because March is "MANY REPETITIONS of MEMORY" month. Students should be practicing piano guild pieces over and over *CAREFULLY* (not as fast as we can go!!) until three times are perfect...not three times in a row (like Mozart three penny practice), but it may take 10 times through to get 3 times perfect. Ideally, this should be done on every memorized piece! I understand, though, that practicing like this takes time, so if you are short on time, practice just those weak sections in each piece until three times perfect. It will REALLY make a difference both in memory security and in a confident performance!

 Happy St. Patrick's Day! 