

Mrs V's KEY ISSUES

Piano Notes for April

"PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT"

Practicing 100 minutes per week, one or more weeks, in March were: KATHY MOORE, WOODY GROSS, GUS GROSS, Yawen Guo, MATTHEW NICHOLSON, HELEN NICHOLSON, Tanisha Thakku, Brinley Simon, Ian Duncan, Owen Duncan, Alex Garrett, Lizzie Sanders, JOIE NABETH, MIA IGLEHEART, Mylo Gross, MELANIE VANDERSCHAAF, Agnes Wei, Georgia Scott, Simone Scott, Cason Kesseling, NORA BARBA, Alyssa Miller, Ellie Sommers, Hazel Chan, HARPER CHAN, Brayden Chao, AUNDREA KHIM, 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!!!

IMPORTANT DATES

Please note the dates for Piano Guild listed above and the Studio Recital (which is on SATURDAY, May 20th at the children's baptist home with recitals at 3pm, 4pm, and 5pm...please let me know if you have any preference) and mark your calendars accordingly. Students' specific times for guild auditions are taped inside their assignment notebooks. Piano Guild auditions take place in my home studio. Please notify me IMMEDIATELY if there are any scheduling conflicts. (text me at 512-630-9908 or email me at vschaaf@sbcglobal.net)

Piano Guild Auditions are an EXCUSABLE ABSENCE from school – school permission slips will be available for those who need them.

PIANO PARTY!

There's a Piano Party for STUDENTS ONLY on SATURDAY APRIL 22nd from 4 to 6pm... invitations with more details will be handed out prior to the party. RSVP via text to 512-630-9908 as soon as possible if you cannot attend. Performance tapes/videos will be required if the party is missed. This will be the last opportunity for performance practice before Guild and the recital, so hope to see you all there!

PRACTICE CHECK

Practice times this month should increase greatly because in order to polish a piece, every time it's practiced it should be played three times in a row with NO MISTAKES (remembering all the many details such as counting, notes, dynamics, slurs, lifts, staccatos, etc.)!!!! For a piece to receive credit at lessons for being polished, the piece has to have correct scale and cadence, solid memory, signs of expression and perfect ending the FIRST time it's played for me. That usually does not occur unless it's been played carefully MANY times at home. Use Mozart's Three Penny Practice!!! Each student can continue this month with their list of all guild/recital pieces and should make checks on it DAILY to make sure all pieces are being practiced three times DAILY. Parents, I appreciate your help!

PIANO GUILD/RECITAL UPDATE

Students auditioning for Piano Guild should have all pieces completely learned by now, and all students should be working on one or two pieces for the recital. During the month of April, we will continue working on "polishing" memory/performance so that pieces will be at a performance level. Students, USE your KEYS FOR SUCCESS (during ALL home practice AND at lessons!!!) to aid in polishing your pieces! And remember, students who achieve performance level of all guild or recital pieces by the end of April will receive a trophy at the recital!

APRIL 16th through APRIL 20th will be "PRETEND PIANO GUILD" week – students will come to regularly scheduled lessons, but will enter my house from the garage (just like they will do for real Guild auditions) and I will be judging their piano guild pieces... this is a run through before the "real" piano guild auditions taking place in my home May 3-6th, to check student readiness!

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS of the MONTH

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS this month are JOIE NABETH and NORA BARBA! Congratulations to both of these consistent students! MANY students had outstanding lessons this past month – I'm so proud of you ALL! Keep up that GREAT practicing!! :O)

HAPPY SPRING!!