September 27, 2017

BACK TO SCHOOL MUSIC ON ORCAS ISLAND

Hello from MAG! This is our 21st year advocating for, and supporting, school music and MAG has you, our music loving community, to thank. Like you, all of us at MAG share an unwavering confidence in the value of music education. Here is a peek at what's in store for music students in the 2017-18 school year.

We are most excited about the recently launched **Joyce Burghardt Excellence in Music Fund** honoring our recently retired and founding MAG Board member. This fund will focus on supplementing our basic gifts with transformative musical opportunities for students. Four generous island donors have pledged to match, dollar for dollar, up to $10,000 in donations to the Burghardt Fund from *now until the end of 2017*. We urge you to visit OIMAG.ORG to find out more and to donate online if you wish to honor Joyce Burghardt's decades-long dedication to school music advocacy for the benefit of Orcas students.

At school, our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are learning a new instrument, be it the recorder, ukulele or perhaps, the trumpet. Middle school and high school strings and band groups have begun daily practices. In fact, the high school groups begin their day with an hour-long practice before the first bell!

Thanks to student interest, 5th grade strings will soon have another half-sized string bass to learn on. And, a cello rack for proper instrument storage is on the way.

In consultation with our music teachers, MAG will purchase SmartMusic, a practice assignment software package, as well as 6 new Chromebooks for the classrooms and practice rooms. These innovative tools help teachers to improve student practice regularity and advance their musical skills.

2016-2017 MAG In Action Highlights

Orcas students participated in 12 regional Honor Festivals, contests and conferences.

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Our music teachers are now using Sibelius, a composition and notation software that allows them to efficiently modify music scores to suit our music program needs.

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4th grade kids had an eye-opening experience playing their recorders with the Seattle Symphony, along with hundreds of their peers from schools across Washington State.

The present success of school music on Orcas is founded on the efforts of former MAG Board members and long-term supporters, like Joyce Burghardt and you. We are dedicated to building on your legacy. In the months ahead, MAG will be reaching out for community support for the passage of the new Orcas Island School District bond proposal on the November 7 ballot, which includes funding for the long-planned Music-Multipurpose Room. With class numbers growing, adequate space to move to music, learn music and play music is one project we can strongly stand behind.

Sincerely,

Your Music Advocacy Group