September 28, 2018

BACK TO SCHOOL MUSIC ON ORCAS ISLAND

Hello from MAG! This time of year is ripe with fall abundance and fresh starts. We are excited for a new year of school music that is enriching and inspiring for all our kids from kindergarten through high school.



Last year, student interest led to the purchase of a set of orchestral chimes and a string bass. This year, a student is learning an instrument that we have never had before—the bassoon. YOUR support has helped ensure that musical instruments, inspiring experiences and relevant technology are accessible for nurturing a quality music program. Annually, MAG makes contributions that more than double the school district's budget for the K-12 school music program.

With your help, we can weave music into our school culture and build on 22 years of advocacy to establish music as part of a well-rounded education.

In May, MAG hosted a student awards reception that recognized music students and their parents for their achievements at off-island honor orchestras and contests—*a first such reception for the music program.*

We were thrilled to see beginning music students among the 14 awardees since the 'Music Student of the Month' series of ads, sponsored by local businesses, began in February 2017. These students stood out to their teachers simply for their passion, positive attitude and practice persistence in mastering a new instrument. This year, MAG will continue encouraging our hardworking learners with this great series, thanks again to local business support. Yes!



In 2017-18, donors helped MAG to provide over $19,000 in contributions, including:

- Annual contribution of $8,000 for general school music needs that helped fund the Seattle Symphony trip.
- A new string bass, a stool, and a storage rack for cellos.
- A set of orchestral chimes.
- 6 Chromebooks and the SmartMusic software program.
- Registration fees for students to attend invitational music proficiency programs.

At our Spring Benefit Concert in March, Guest Speaker and jazz musician Steve Albouq talked about camaraderie and rich friendships made through music. He challenged the audience to get involved in school music, to pass on the torch of learning, creating and sharing the life-long joy of making music.

Here, we thought we would end with some ideas for you:

- Encourage a music student you know by sharing your own learning stories.
- Recognize musical achievements by congratulating students, *and their parents*, when you see them.
- Show up at free school music concerts and bring your friends!
- Keep abreast of school music events and achievements in the local media and at **OIMAG.org**
- Volunteer/contribute to MAG's school music fund and the Joyce Burghardt Excellence In Music Fund.

Won't you join us?

Sincerely,

Your Music Advocacy Group

P.S. MAG is working towards reducing postage costs and building up our fledging email list, and we could use your help. Drop us an email at **info@oimag.org** with your name so we can update our list. Thank you!

FALL/WINTER CONCERTS

5th-8th Grade Music Concert
Dec 6, 2018, 7:00pm
High School Gym

High School Concert
Dec 13, 2018, 7:00pm
Orcas Center

Elementary Music Concert
Dec 20, 2018, 6:30pm
High School Gym

MAG '100 Musicians! 1 Great Cause!' Concert
Mar 3, 2019, 3:00pm
Old Gym

