



Newsletter



Palouse Suzuki Strings November 2007

SEVEN HABITS OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN *by Janet DeTemple*

1. *Don't ask if your child wants to practice.* Practice, like other things you value should be an assumed activity in the routine of your day. Giving choices about when one practices and what to practice first help to make children feel that they have a say in the process but practice itself needs to be non-negotiable

2. *Use mistakes as opportunities to learn.* When students make mistakes we need to use them as growth moments. If a note is out of tune, ask your child if he thinks that he was too high or too low. Ask your child if she has any ideas about how the problem could be fixed. Work as a team to see that mistakes are not only inevitable but necessary in the process of learning anything. If you can't come up with a solution, write down the problem and take it to your teacher. When mistakes are made, be very careful not to communicate that you think a mistake is reflection of your child's self worth. Sighs, head shakes etc. are spirit killers and do not motivate anyone to want to do better. Mistakes are opportunities to learn when we have a strategy for fixing them.

3. *Don't listen too hard or overreact to grumbling.* I don't think I've ever taught a family where a certain amount of complaining about the process of music learning didn't occur. I have seen children use their music lessons as a focus for all kinds of feelings and as a tool for getting a rise out of their parents. Frequently I think that children, seeing that music is important to their parents, use complaining about it as a way of testing to see who is still in charge (or not!). Of course, consistent unhappiness with lessons should be addressed. Even small complaints should be acknowledged but with observations rather than value judgements or alarm. For instance, when your child is frustrated simply affirm the feeling by recognizing it. ("I see that you're frustrated. This is really hard isn't it? Maybe we should take a smaller group of notes or slow down a bit.")

4. *Use extrinsic rewards with care and economy.* Overuse of extrinsic rewards isn't much different from bribery. Children who learn to expect to be rewarded every time they do what they are expected to do anyway learn that tasks in themselves are not rewarding or worthwhile. They also feel manipulated. If our goal is to teach our children that succeeding at something hard is self-fulfilling, then we need to focus on intrinsic values more than extrinsic ones. Extrinsic rewards are "If you have a good lesson (usually loosely defined or not defined at all), we'll go out and get an ice cream". Intrinsic rewards are the natural highs we experience when we know we've done well.

5. *Stop practice when things are going well.* This is hard to do. When we are experiencing success we want to exploit the moment and keep going. Don't. If we stop when we're having a good time, both parent and child will look forward to the next practice.

PSS December Calendar

3	Rep and Read	Pullman
	Parent Forum 1 st hour	
10	Rep and Read	Moscow
17	Winter Concert	Pullman 4:30pm
22	Care Center Concert	Avalon House

Happy Holidays

PSS January Calendar

7	Rep and Read	Moscow
	Parent Forum 1 st hour	
14	Rep and Read	Pullman
21	Martin Luther King Day	No Classes
28	Solo Day	Moscow

6. If anyone gets angry it's best to stop and come back to the problem later. Beating away at an issue when everyone is mad can be very destructive. It's better for everyone to cool off. No one will want to practice if fights occur. Simply telling your child that her behavior is making you feel angry and that you can't continue to practice under those circumstances, then stopping will teach far more than yelling.

7. Give your child choices. Within the structure of practice give choices. Ask your child what he wants to practice first, or when he wants to do review or how many times he needs to do correct repetitions of a skill or a passage helps children to feel that they are part of the team. Choices also involve some level of investment. Rather than always following directions, a child should need to think a bit.



EAT PIZZA FOR PSS NOVEMBER 30!!!!!!!!!!

Tired of Turkey? This Friday from 6:30-8:30 P.M. Pizza Hut in Moscow is donating 20% of their cash receipts to Palouse Suzuki Strings. Please encourage all your friends to pick this night for a Pizza Break! We will have people stationed at the restaurant handing out flyers. Thank you to all volunteers who are going to be there. If you aren't volunteering, come anyway and buy some pizza. Stay Tuned for a Pullman Pizza Hut fund raiser after the holidays.

♪ FREE CAKE!♪

Did I forget to mention a free concert? Yes, a kid friendly concert at no charge -- cake and punch to boot! You don't want to miss the Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra in concert on Saturday, December 1st at 7:30 p.m. at the Lionel Hampton School of Music's Recital Hall. You will see many former and current PSS members performing Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and a set of variations by a living composer, Karel Husa. Featured on the program will be guest artist Leonard Garrison, Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Idaho. Dr. Garrison will be the soloist in Carl Stamitz's Concerto for Flute and Strings. Garrison has been a flutist in The Scott/Garrison Duo, the Chicago Symphony (including a 2004 tour of Japan), and the Tulsa Philharmonic, soloist on National Public Radio's "Performance Today," winner of the 2003 Byron Hester Competition, concerto soloist on both flute and piccolo, and a frequent performer at National Flute Association conventions. We will end the program with a fun set of Christmas Carols and Sleigh Ride. Wow -- all totaled an evening of great music, cake and punch and a chance to earn a special PSS pencil too! Hope to see you all there.

Sheila Kilcoyne and GPYO members

WINTER CONCERT INFORMATION

On December 17th at 4:30 PM we will be ending our semester with a concert at Simpson United Methodist Church in Pullman (our usual Pullman location). You are welcome to invite friends and family and join us for a potluck and conversation after the concert. There is no charge for this festive concert. **Students will be arriving at 3:45 PM** to allow for warm-up and other organizing. Concert attire will be white top and black pants or skirt. So look through those drawers to see if everything fits! Pre-Twinkle and Beginning Cello classes can wear any color. For people who like to plan ahead please count on bringing a hearty appetizer if your last name starts with A-L, or a yummy dessert if your last name begins with M-Z. PSS will provide quenching drinks and table service. **We are hiring a professional to record the concert and are taking orders for DVD's for \$15 each.**

BOOK RECITALS

JiYoon Shin	Book 4	November 3
Rebekah Heo	Book 1	November 10
Heidi Rice	Book 10	November 17

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

String Shoppe

½ size cello with bow, good condition. Price is \$300 Contact Jeehee Kim at 509-432-9434 or 509-334-0324.

½ size K Becker violin including shoulder rest, good condition. Price \$220. Please call, Hoa 509-432-5227.

15" Scott Cao viola w/2 bows and case. Gently used. High quality instrument. Excellent Shape. \$900. Call Veronica or Roger at 208-882-2562.

½ size violin with bow and hard case, good condition, \$250. Jim Frenzel, jfrenzel@uidaho.edu, (208) 882-3963

½ size cello with bow and badded backpack case, good condition, \$475. Jim Frenzel, jfrenzel@uidaho.edu (208) 882-3963

2004 Nagoya-Suzuki 1/8 size violin with bow and zippered case. \$200. Call Matt or Jill McCluskey, (509) 334-1607, or mattmcc@wsu.edu

2001 Klaus Mueller Prelude, Model 105, ½ size violin with wooden horsehair bow. Zippered case and ½ size collapsible KUN included. Good tone and condition. Nice set up for beginner student. \$150.00, Call Kathleen or Tom Rodgers, 332-4298 or rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com

1962 Karl Hofner ¾ size violin with wooden horsehair bow and new hard-sided case. Violin looks a bit rustic but has a nice sound. Good for beginner student. \$100.00, Call Kathleen or Tom Rodgers, 332-4298 or rodgersfamilypullman@msn.com

At a recent solo day a young sibling was heard to say as a cellist was moving his instrument into position, "Wow, that is one big violin."

