



# Newsletter



*Palouse Suzuki Strings*

*September 2008*

## **WELCOME BACK!!!!**

You would think I would be tired of Palouse Suzuki Strings after the 5<sup>th</sup> year. No, I am still happy when my kids start group classes again. Although I am wistful of the memory of long summer days, the summer can be too long without lessons, and it starts to feel like drudgery practicing the same old stuff. I can feel the sharp skills and routine slipping away. It is hard to fit practice in between all the fun things!

My kids usually get a little more motivated, and with the group, they can see the fun and purpose of it all. When they start group classes, their playing suddenly becomes more focused. For me, PSS takes some pressure off at home. When they were little we didn't always practice on Mondays because I knew they would get to play the violin later. No Guilt!

As life gets busier, I notice it becomes more difficult to keep group class in the schedule. There are so many wonderful choices of activities for my children. I like my kids to take part in something physical too, and sometimes it is difficult to juggle soccer practice or whatever else is going on. Somehow, we have been able to schedule around "Suzuki Mondays." It does help that both my kids play the strings. Are there ever days when I don't feel like going? Sure, sometimes it seems like one more thing to do. I think we all fill up our lives until they start overflowing. We have made it a priority and have not been sorry. I guess just like anything, we get out what we put in.

Being on the board has motivated me to look at other group programs around the country. Palouse Suzuki Strings really is unique. In my search I never saw any groups of independent teachers that cooperated by teaching each other's students in a group setting like they do here. Most group classes were either run by a teacher that taught their own studio, or the group was a part of a music school that had salaried teachers, and the parent had little choice which teacher was assigned for private lessons. When researched closely, the teachers often came and went every 2-3 years. To top it off, the cost was often double or triple PSS with less class meetings. I certainly do appreciate the fact that our teachers are here year after year. Though they have strong ideas about how their students are taught, they manage to cooperate, and our students benefit from all the different points of view.

Over the years I have benefitted from meeting other parents in Suzuki. Many of us (including me) had no idea what we were getting into when we signed up for Suzuki violin lessons. Failure never occurred to me. It did cross my mind that my kids may need to practice, but all the other parents seemed to be able to get them to practice so I was sure I could too. Needless to say there have been rough patches. Over the years failure has crossed my mind on more than one occasion! Somehow, most of us adapted. I know all the other parents I have met at PSS or the Festival at Ellensburg have motivated me to "do better" in our daily practice and not give up when the going gets rough. One thing I am certain of, each parent that I have met over the years is trying to do what is best for their children. That is great motivation.----By Allison Willoughby

## *PSS Calendar October*

October 6	Rep/Read Parent Forum 3:45 Instrument Sale	Pullman
October 13	Rep/Read	Moscow
October 20	Rep/Read	Pullman
October 27	Spooky Solo Day	Pullman



## OTHER PSS NEWS

### Parent Forum:

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** We will have a **Parent Forum at 3:45 in Pullman**. Parent Forums are designed to answer questions that you might have and swap ideas. Parents new and experienced are welcome to attend.

### Suzuki Swap:

In addition to the parent forum on **October 6<sup>th</sup>**, we will be hosting an instrument/accessory sale. Please bring your instruments you want to sell, shoulder rests, music.....whatever. The only thing we ask is that you leave contact information and price for the items. Claudia Guzman will watch over the items and you can pick them up again at the end of class.

### New Teacher:

Are any of you are wondering who the new teacher is for Allegro and Violin A? It is not often we see a new face and we are so excited to have Inga Zornes join us while Diane Worthey is with her family in England. Inga's biography shows that we are very lucky to have her as a faculty member:

Inga Zornes, a native of Wenatchee, recently returned to Pullman to teach in the Palouse Suzuki Strings program. She has a Bachelor's degree in music, summa cum laude, from Washington State University, where she studied under Dr. Meredith Arksey. Inga's decision to become a Suzuki teacher grew from her undergraduate experiences in helping with a PSS Pre-Twinkle class and writing her Honors College senior thesis on the Suzuki Method. She furthered her music studies and Suzuki teacher training at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, during 2007-08, where she worked as a graduate assistant, studied pedagogy with Dr. Louise Scott, served as concertmaster of the NAU Symphony and was a member of the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra. Inga has also performed in a number of chamber music ensembles in Washington, Idaho, Arizona and New York. Inga is glad to be back on the Palouse, and looks forward to being a life-long learner as a teacher and as a violinist. Welcome Inga.

### New Board Member:

Cindy Bauer has agreed to be our new Vice-President of the Parent Board. We are so pleased that she agreed to fit this in her busy schedule. She has been a part of PSS for longer than most of us.

### Violin Camp (aka Walla Walla Suzuki Institute) by Jonna Sobeloff-Gittes, age 6-3/4

That week was great! Especially, the best feature of all was in the dorm where there was a chocolate on the pillow the first night, to my surprise! The day before we left my mom pointed out there was another chocolate on my pillow! We shared that one. And the next best, I thought, was the parade, where the violins and cellos and violas were the only ones that shall be in it. The cellos stayed in one spot and the violins and violas marched all around downtown Walla Walla playing songs. The only bad thing was a boy named Sasha tripped and dropped his viola bow off a bridge. And I mean it! The fire department helped him get it later. I thought it was great. The orchestra and fiddling were great also.

by **Judy Sobeloff**

My favorite part, along with having special time with Jonna and making friends with the other families, was the fiddling class. Having lapsed in my practicing since my concert debut (Mrs. Twinkle Stop Stop" with the PreTwinkle class two years before), I was really proud of myself for joining the kids and a couple of other moms and a grandma in learning and performing an extended version of Bile Them Cabbage Down. Being at the Suzuki camp underlined for me how lucky we are to have our group classes and community here, and I really enjoyed seeing the kids making tangible progress over the course of one concentrated week. The teachers were great, and I felt really inspired by the whole week.

She is the mom to Tabitha Bauer and has had other girls in the program that have “graduated” and gone on to other violin opportunities. One of her girls is has gone to U of I and one is playing in the Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra. Our constitution and by-laws dictate the need to hold an election to officially vote her into office. We will be holding this election on Solo Day, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Please show your support.

### **Childcare:**

You may have heard that we are not providing childcare as we have in the past. It became apparent that the liability issues were too great. We will have the nursery open in each church so you can have use of the room and toys if you have a restless toddler or baby. Siblings are welcome in class with you if they are not distracting to the students. If you do bring a child into class with you, please remember that the toys in those rooms are not for our use. We encourage you to bring quiet activities for your child to keep busy. If your child gets fussy feel free to step out if needed.

## String Shoppe

**1/2 size Suzuki Cello** made in 1990. Asking \$425. Contact Jessica Kirkland at 883-0530.

**1/8 size Shimro Cello** made in 2001, Asking \$450 Contact Ann Saberi at 509-432-3335

**1/8 violin outfit**, \$125: call Becky at 892-0649 or [aarmill@moscow.com](mailto:aarmill@moscow.com)

2006 Hoffman Etude **violin, 1/8 size**, excellent condition. Email Carol Spurling at [writer@plumassignment.net](mailto:writer@plumassignment.net) or call 892-0649

2005 Franz Hoffman maestro **violin, 1/10 size** with bow and zippered case. \$250, excellent condition. Please contact Samjoo Lee (509)334-7134 or 432-5182, [samjoolee@hotmail.com](mailto:samjoolee@hotmail.com)

**1/2 size Kyoto Suzuki Cello** (anno 1993) with bow and soft case. Good condition. \$300. Please call Wendy at 882-6296 or email [wsb@moscow.com](mailto:wsb@moscow.com).

**3/4 size Grygor Petrov Bulgarian Violin** in excellent condition. Shoulder rest included. \$500. Call Wendy at 882-6296 or email [wsb@moscow.com](mailto:wsb@moscow.com).

**1/2 size Romanian violin** with upgraded bow \$700 Call Allison 882-0656 or [alwillow@moscow.com](mailto:alwillow@moscow.com)

**1/2 size RL Ray violin** outfit, \$425. Call Allison 882-0656 or [alwillow@moscow.com](mailto:alwillow@moscow.com)



See next page for Sheila's Do list and a list of concerts for October and November.

## ***DO LIST FOR STUDENTS***

Be punctual

Use the restroom before the class starts to avoid interruptions.

Come to class prepared bringing your instrument, music stand, all music and a pencil.

Have your instrument and equipment ready before the start of class.

Raise your hand if you have a question, but understand the teacher cannot always stop the lesson to answer all questions.

Listen! Listen!! Listen!!!

Contribute your best to every class.

Do remember that we are guests at both churches and we should be respectful. We should use our indoor voices, walk (running and chasing are for playgrounds) to our classrooms and touch what only belongs to you.

Do help clean up after the last class.

## **DO LIST FOR PARENTS**

Do give your child a snack before class. We cannot have food or drink in the classrooms for obvious reasons.

Be punctual.

Do check to make sure your child has packed everything for class.

Do intervene if your child is having a difficult time in class. Simple reminders of your expectations of behavior or a short time out usually suffice.

Do check on your young ones after using the restrooms. Many surprises have been left and often the water is left running. Please dispose of “dirty diapers” outside.

Do teach you children respect for public property. Toys, books, envelopes, pencils, even though are convenient, are not for our use. Please bring books, toys, and writing/coloring equipment from home for group classes. Please also remind your child to keep their feet off the pews and cushions in the sanctuary.

## ***CONCERT ETIQUETTE***

All performers must come early (3:00 - 3:45) to be tuned and rehearse with our pianist. If you know in advance you will be late let your teacher know so the program order can be adjusted.

All performers should dress nicely for the recital.

All performers should remember to bow before and after their performance.

Everyone should remember to turn off all cell phones or any device that beeps or is distracting.

Everyone should sit quietly and respectfully listen to each performer. I was reminded of how well young students could listen while watching a clip of the Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic's Young People's Concerts.

Everyone should keep trips in and out of the room to a minimum. Please use the rest rooms before the recital starts.

Everyone should enter or exit the room **ONLY** in between performers – not while someone is playing. This can be disturbing to the performer and we would like to have all our students feel comfortable and have the opportunity to perform their very best.

Everyone should keep his or her feet off the pews.

Everyone should help return the recital room to its original condition.

### **Upcoming Concerts**

Monday, October 27, 2008

Faculty Recital: Ferenc Cseszko, viola

7:30 p.m. Lionel Hampton Recital Hall

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Auditorium Chamber Music Series: Trio con Brio Copenhagen

7:30 p.m. UI University Auditorium

Washington Idaho Symphony Concert II

Saturday, November 1, 2008 8:00 p.m. Gladish Auditorium

Sunday, November 2, 2008 3:00 p.m. Lewiston High School