



NOTES

The 12th F.A.M.E. Dinner Dance Let's Hear it for Music Education

Friends Advancing Music Education would like to thank the community of Westford for another successful evening of music. On Friday, April 15th F.A.M.E. held its 12th annual Dinner Dance. Many Westford Academy students and instructors shared their musical talents with 130 guests. The Barefoot Chamber Quartet along with a special guest Mr. Kenneth Culver performed to welcome our supporters to the event.

As guests dined on the delicious offerings of Filho's Cucina's of Groton, and Westford's Metropolitan Deli, and the luscious desserts prepared by Sweet Visions Patisserie, they were serenaded by WA choral students. Performances included Jerad Lawson on keyboard and vocals, Brianna Ryder vocals with Catie Martin on guitar, and Josh Lin and his singing partner from Andover High, Victoria Lee.

After dinner, the WA Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mr. George Arsenault opened the dance floor with a mix of swing, funk and big band tunes. Tunes featured solo performances by Tim Olivier, Steven McManimon, Matt Whitney, Mark McKenzie, Eric Meredith and Chris Bert. The evening concluded with an all-student band, The Ask Again Later Band, featuring Jerad Lawson, Bobby Esposito, Sal Restuccia, and led by Mark McKenzie. They rocked the house!

The evening included A Taste of Westford Raffle featuring gift certificates and items from local artists, restaurants and businesses. The members of F.A.M.E. would like to express our thanks to all of the individuals and businesses who made generous donations. The annual event raised over \$4,100 for Friends Advancing Music Education's scholarship fund.

Look for upcoming information about our Fall fundraiser, the F.A.M.E. Music Café, featuring a variety of musical genres presented by local adult performers.

Concert Calendar 2011

May

- 25 SB Orch
- 25 Abbot Orch w/ WA Orch at WA 7PM
- 26 Day Orch. w/WA Orch at WA 7PM
- 26 SB Chorus 7PM
- 31 Instrument "Petting Zoo" at SB 6PM -8PM

June

- 1 SB Band
- 2 Blanchard Band 7PM
- 3 Crisafulli Strings at Robinson 9:30AM
- 3 Band at WA Graduation 4PM
- 14 SB Orch. & Solo Ensemble Concert at SB 7PM
- 14 5th Gr. Chorus at Robinson 9AM
- 9 Blue Man Group 6th & 7th Gr. MS Orch/Band
- 16 Blue Man Group 8th Gr. MS Orch/Band
- 16 Strings & Chorus concert at Day 9AM
- 17 Abbot Strings at Nabnasset 9:30AM

F.A.M.E. Website

Visit www.westford.com/fame for updated information on school music events, fundraising and membership.

**F.A.M.E.
Music Café
Will be Returning
Fall 2011**

**Volunteers needed to help with
this event email fame_westford@yahoo.com**

F.A.M.E Camp Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available, for students in Grades 5-9, to attend a summer music camp of their choice. Ask your music teachers for an application form and more information, or go to the F.A.M.E. Website www.westford.com/fame or email fame_westford@yahoo.com

*Deadline Extended to June 3rd
for Summer Camp Scholarships*

NOTES Spring 2011

Westford Summer Music & Art Program

Elementary Strings, Middle School Strings, and Middle School Band are invited to sign up for this popular summer program.

Music July 11th - 15th Stony Brook

Art July 18th - 22nd Blanchard

One week Music or Art - \$125

Two weeks Music and Art - \$200

From 8:00am-12:00pm

Registration and information:

<http://bms.westfordk12.us/pages/academics/BMSband/summer>

For more information contact:

[Mr. Arsenault_garsenault@westfordk12.us](mailto:Mr.Arsenault_garsenault@westfordk12.us)

Westford Academy News

by Ken Culver, Westford Music Department

Westford Education Foundation Instructional Grants

WA Bands and Orchestras all benefitted from a WEF grant given to the music department to bring in outside conductors and sectional coaches this spring. The students worked hard to prepare and impressed the visitors who were very helpful in getting the kids ready for our upcoming spring concerts.

Mr. Lutz brought great energy and enthusiasm to his band rehearsals and Mr. Hangen ran detailed rehearsals for the orchestras which helped remedy some of the weak points of the orchestras. The students felt like they benefitted the most from the sectional rehearsals where they got instruction specific to their instrument.

It was great for me to observe the ensembles from a different perspective and to see what the guest clinicians focused on and how they worked with our students.

Thanks to the Westford Education Foundation for their support and to our guest instructors.

WA Bands, Choruses and Orchestras Visit Symphony Hall

This past fall WA music students again had the opportunity to witness a working rehearsal of the

Boston Symphony Orchestra. They sounded wonderful. For next year we are going to be looking for complete performances to attend so that we get to hear the finished product.

Westford Academy Orchestras to Perform with the Concord Orchestra

I am pleased to announce that members of the orchestras will be performing the St. Paul's Suite by Gustav Holst with the Concord Orchestra under the direction of Richard Pittman this coming December. Look for details in the fall.

Band and Orchestra Students to visit Europe

13 Members of the Westford Academy will be going on a joint performing and cultural tour of France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland for 19 days at the beginning of the summer. Joined with young musicians from other communities they will perform 8 concerts while visiting sites such as Normandy Beach, the Musee D'Orsay, a concentration camp and an Alpine glacier all while sampling local food and culture. It promises to be a great tour with many highlights and lots of new friends.

F.A.M.E. Meets The Second Tuesday Every Month At 7pm In Room 108, WA New Members Welcome

F.A.M.E. OFFICERS 2009 – 2010

Joanne Mavroides	President
Karen McKenzie	Vice President
Nancy Wimberg	Treasurer
Anne Dempsey	Secretary

For more information on F.A.M.E.
contact Joanne Mavroides, F.A.M.E. President
fame_westford@yahoo.com

F.A.M.E. Website
www.westford.com/fame

F.A.M.E is a non-profit parent volunteer organization. The mission of F.A.M.E. is to support and foster an improved educational environment for any and all Westford School music students.

F.A.M.E. provides: grants for innovative music programs, music scholarships, sheet music, instruments, uniforms, music software, field trips, transportation for special musical performances, and more.

Jazz Band News

Marching Band Summer Sessions

Will run from August 22 to August 25



Sign up now !

The Apple Blossom Parade Band

by Andrew Kaster

The Westford Academy Marching Band has been a positive organization for over thirty years in Westford. Offering a community feel and companionship for young teens has always been the goal. As of last year, the director George Arsenault has begun a fantastic new program for the Band. Instead of just high schoolers marching in the Apple Blossom Parade, the band has been opened up to every band student from grades 6-12 to help give them a short taste of what it means to be in a Marching Band.

While letting the young students participate in the band and learn the cohesiveness of the technique and group, they also get to see what the high school music program can do for their musical ability. By playing and talking to talented musicians they most likely would not meet until they got to high school, the middle school students can see what they could do as a high school music student and what the high school music program can do for them socially.

**This year's Apple Blossom Band
was 140 strong !**

UMass Jazz Festival

by Chris Bert

On March 26th, the WA Jazz Band traveled to UMass Amherst's 13th annual High School Jazz Festival. In many ways a climax (though not an end) to an extremely busy and exciting year for us, the competition was a great adventure and an opportunity both to experience performing outside of Westford and to hear professional jazz musicians in concert.

We left midday that Saturday, and once we arrived we were led to a practice room in the Bezanson music building. After much bowtie straightening and nervous fiddling with our instruments, it was our turn to go on stage in the recital hall. Three adjudicators sat behind the audience, and after a brief introduction by the festival's director, we played. We had prepared three pieces: a swing tune called *The Way You Look Tonight* by Jerome Kern, the slow blues *Lil' Darlin'* by Neil Hefti, and finally *The Chicken* by Alfred James Ellis, a tune somewhere between rock and funk and by far my personal favorite. Our finish was met with lots of applause, and even though we did not win the competition we were pleased with the quality of our work and happy to have come.

After we performed, one of the judges met us in a different room to give us feedback on each of the songs and teach us more about the style of the music. The festival closed with an amazing performance by the UMass Jazz Band. Then, as is essential to any band trip, we ate. Mr. Arsenault brought us to a small but bustling pizza shop called Antonio's that he frequented during his years at UMass. Full of good pizza, we finished the day watching a tribute to John Coltrane presented by a professional jazz combo in Bowker Auditorium and then set off for home. I hope we go again next year because this festival was one of my best experiences with the jazz band.

Check out this video of the WA Jazz Band submitted by Jesse Cataldo to the Westford Patch.

Apr 1, 2011 ... *VIDEO: WA Jazz Band Jams UMass-Amherst Festival* ... Credit Jesse Cataldo
<http://westford.patch.com/articles/video-wa-jazz-band-jams-umass-amherst-festival#video-5461628>

Middle School News

New Event for Middle School Strings

Please come to the *1st Annual Solo and Ensemble Concert* featuring 7th and 8th grade string students from BMS and SB. On Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at the Stony Brook School at 7PM.

MICCA Orchestra Field Trip

This was a busy weekend. It began with our Band and Orchestra. The BMS Wind Ensemble and BMS MICCA Orchestra took part in the 2011 MICCA ensemble festival at Lexington High School on Friday, April 8th. The MICCA festival is one of the most respected and competitive music festivals in New England. It required significant preparation and dedication on the part of the students and teachers involved. Blanchard Middle School Orchestra brought home a Silver award and Blanchard Middle School Band earned a Bronze award.

Congratulations to our musicians and thanks to our supportive parents and our dedicated advisors Mrs. Ottesen and Mr. Arsenault. Much gratitude to FAME for helping with the transportation costs.

Happenings in Music at Blanchard Middle School

F.A.M.E. provided funds to transport middle school musicians on the Valentine Goodwill Tour to local senior centers. This heartfelt annual tradition brings joy to students and seniors alike.

Blue Man Group Field Trip

Band and Orchestra will head to Boston for their field trip to see Blue Man Group. 6th and 7th Gr. Band and Orchestra students from BMS and SB will go on June 9th and 8th Gr. Band and Orchestra students from BMS and SB will go on June 16th

Julie Ottesen

String Instrumental Music

Blanchard Middle School

<http://bms.westfordk12.us/pages/academics/bmstrings/index>

Stony Brook School

<http://sb.westfordk12.us/pages/iaweb/sbstrings/index>

BMS Chorus

West St. Serenaders continued their 'GOLD'en winning streak at Heritage Festivals in New Orleans at the end of April. May 16 the combined choirs at Blanchard presented *A Spring Evening with Elton*

John, featuring songs from his greatest hits collections. The combined choirs head to Great East Festivals in Agawam in early June to pit their skills against the judges. Good luck to the Girl's Chorus and the Blanchard Boy's Chorus (BBC).

David Lussier

Blanchard Middle School

dlussier@westfordk12.us

Elementary News

Elementary Chorus

The Abbot and Day 5th Grade Choruses combined again this year not just for Townwide Vocal Night in March, but they also performed in conjunction with the Stony Brook Middle School Chorus for a December Concert. This will be an annual event.

The Abbot and Day Schools Spring Concerts are Wednesday, June 15 (Abbot) and Thursday, June 16 (Day). Both are scheduled at their respective schools at 9:00 am and will also feature the Orchestra under the direction of Todd Hamelin.

Cathy Lanno

Elementary General Music/ Chorus

Abbot/Day School

Elementary Band

Parents of Grade 3 students,

Starting next Fall Fourth grade students will have the opportunity to play in the band. Students will have four instrument choices: flute, clarinet, trumpet, or bell kit.

On Tuesday, May 31, 2011 there will be a *Band Instrument "Petting Zoo"* at Stony Brook School from 6-8pm for students interested in joining 4th Grade band.

For more information contact

Dan Kaminsky, Instrumental Music

dkaminsky@westfordk12.us

Elementary Strings

Ms. Corwin jcorwin@westfordk12.us

Mr. Hamelin thamelin@westfordk12.us

Visit Westford Strings Program

<http://westfordk12.us/strings>

Links to Music Programs

WA Music Department

http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/westfordWA_FineArts/WestfordWA_Music/index

Strings Middle Schools

<http://sb.westfordk12.us/pages/iaweb/sbstrings/index>

Band Middle School

<http://bms.westfordk12.us/pages/academics/BMSband/WMSB/Links/main.html>

Summer Music Program

<http://bms.westfordk12.us/pages/academics/BMSband/WMSB/Links/WSMC.html>

Westford Strings Program

<http://westfordk12.us/strings>

Instrumental Music Program

<http://westfordk12.us/Pages/Curric/subjectsfolder/strings/index>

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P.O. Box 627, Westford, MA 01886

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Address _____

Children (Name, Grade, Music Group) _____

Contribution \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

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