

QUARTERLY NOTES



Summer 2009

Scarsdale Middle School Music Department

VOLUME II, ISSUE 1

2009 CALENDAR OF WINTER EVENTS

**All concerts begin at
7:30 p.m. at SMS**

Wednesday, 12/2

Grade 7 Chorus B/F/CH,
Grade 7 Band, &
Chamber Wind Ensemble



Monday, 12/7

Grade 8 Choruses



Wednesday, 12/9

Grade 8 Band &
Jazz Band



Thursday, 12/10

Grade 7 Chorus C/P/CH &
Grade 7 Orchestra



Monday, 12/14

Grade 6 Chorus B/F &
Grade 6 Band

Wednesday, 12/16

Grade 6 C/P, Grade 6
Orchestra, Grade 8
Orchestra

B = Butler C = Cooper
F = Fountain P = Popham
CH = CHOICE



WELCOME TO MRS. SLOTWINSKI

Welcome Mrs. Jessica Slotwinski who joins the SMS Music Department this year! She comes to us with several years of music teaching experience, including a MA in Music Education from Hofstra University and a BA in Music Education from Loyola College in Maryland. Teaching music and technology in many forms throughout her career, Mrs. Slotwinski supervised graduate student teachers at Teachers College, and is completing work on her own doctoral dissertation in music education at TC, Columbia University.

Jessica is thrilled to be part of the Scarsdale school community. Born and raised in New York, she enjoys spending time with her husband and their two dogs. This past spring, she performed a multi-style flute recital, and she continues to play a variety of instruments in rock, jazz, pop, and classical settings. In her leisure time, Mrs. Slotwinski loves live music, theatre, technology, cycling, the beach, skiing, and traveling.

As part of her professional journey as a music educator, she created The Trading Fours Online Project (www.tradingfours.org) as a resource and forum for student teachers in music education. This site, and its benefits for student teachers in music education, is the focus of her dissertation. Mrs. Slotwinski is looking forward to an exciting, musical year at SMS.



Jessica Slotwinski

CURRICULUM HIGH NOTES

Here are some of the new and exciting things that are happening in Music Education at the Middle School:

Performing Ensemble:

- Developing new techniques for teaching sight-reading skills that help to promote music literacy in Band

Exploring Music:

- Developing skills in playing, composing, and arranging for recorder, piano, barred instruments (Orff), or folk/electric guitar
- Studying instruments of the orchestra then designing an instrument; composing a

concerto for that original instrument

- Researching genres or styles of music and presenting findings

Cooperative Learning:

- Creating raps, writing songs, incorporating instruments, and using movement in small groups in Chorus

Interdisciplinary:

- Composing "Songs of Conscience" to coincide with Human Rights Day
- World Drumming to accompany movement in Physical Education classes
- Co-teaching a "Westward Ho" unit while extending Lincoln Center Institute studies

2010 SPRING EVENTS

Thursday, 5/6

Grade 7 Chorus B/F,
Grade 7 Band, &
Chamber Wind Ensemble

Monday, 5/10

Grade 7 Chorus C/P &
Grade 6 Band

Wednesday, 5/12

Grade 8 Band & Jazz Band

Wednesday, 5/19

Grade 8 Choruses

Wednesday, 5/26

Grade 6 Choruses

Wednesday, 6/2

Grade 6, 7, 8 Orchestras



(More Noteworthy Events)

March 12-13

Grade 8 Musical

WESTCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL (WCSMA)

Rehearsals:

Feb. 23, Feb. 25

March 16, March 18

**March 20-21 at S.U.N.Y.,
Purchase, NY**

**GRADE FIVE MUSIC
ORIENTATION@ SMS
April 14**

**NYSSMA SOLO FESTIVAL
TBA**

Technology:

- Using a SMART Board in the music piano lab with GarageBand or Sibelius notation software
- Using a GEC (Group Education Controller) while interacting with students working on music projects
- Videoconferencing with the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland

Assessment:

- Enhancing reflection about music concepts through critical thinking during rehearsal in band, chorus, and orchestra
- Basing assessment on NYS Standards
- Developing meaningful assessment for a child-centered learning curriculum

And much more . . . look for the next issue of Quarterly Notes in the Fall

SIXTH GRADE CHORUS: NOTABLES

What advice did sixth graders have for fifth graders thinking about enrolling in SMS Chorus?

"We work hard to match pitch even as voice ranges change in middle school, and to sing as expressively as possible, to reflect the meaning of the lyrics." RB

"I contribute to the choral team by being one of the deepest voices in the class and a leader for the boys." BM

"You have to ask questions and be involved with the class activities. Try to engage in class discussions with comments or statements. You should be creative in your work." ZV

"A positive effort and attitude are important in chorus because it takes teamwork to make a good chorus." TM

"By working together, you are building a bigger relationship with your choral group. If you have a better relationship with your choral group, you will have more courage and confidence to sing in front of everyone." CK

"When I learn the pitches and words accurately, I can focus on volume and other dynamics. Overall, it will make the sound much more pleasurable." AM

"You have to be sure that you really want to sing; that you love singing. If you don't know a lot about music you shouldn't give up. Chorus is so you would learn about music, sing music, and know music." KT

"With every day of singing songs, you learn something new." EG

SMS MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2009-2010

Dorothy Bench/Celia Cuk

Joan Campanella

Nick Lieto

Connie Shelengian

Jessica Slotwinski

John Voss

To contact the music department, call 721-2600. To reach Dr. Shelengian, Music Department Chairperson, call 721-2607 or send email to cshelengian@scarsdaleschools.org

