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Our students have been so busy since returning from the winter break it's hard to find a place to end this quarter's newsletter and begin the next.

Since the break three of our students traveled to Tampa to participate in the All State Orchestra, several clinicians and guest artists have visited and performed, the first string orchestra Chamber Music concert was held, and our Repertory and Chamber students performed with the DA Symphony at Extravaganza in the Times Union Center for the Performing Arts.

All State Orchestra



All-State orchestra students were treated to the expertise of some incredibly talented guest conductors during their trip to the Tampa Florida Music Educator's Association conference in January. Breanna Lang played viola in the All-State Concert Orchestra Conducted by Dr. Kyle Prescott of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Anna-Sofia Poza –violin and Sammy Soud—cello—played in the All-State Symphonic Orchestra conducted by Dr. Thomas Sleeper of the University of Miami Frost School of Music. Ten and twelve hour practice days paid off with delightful performances, demonstrating the incredible musicality of these high achieving students.

Chamber Music Recital

Audience members were treated to the talents of DA Strings orchestra students during the first ever, String Chamber Music Recital February 18 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. A long time goal of Mr. Griffin's, this class provides students with a foundation for playing in a chamber ensemble. Playing chamber music enhances musicianship as performers communicate in the absence of a conductor, allowing more interpretive freedom.

The five DA ensembles performed selections by: Telemann, Schubert, Dvorak.

Many thanks to St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Mr. Tony Cruz for allowing the Orchestra to use their beautiful facility.



Strings Strike a Chord—Fundraiser

Friday February 19 , five DA Orchestra students performed in the "Strings Strike a Chord" Fundraiser for Pine Forest Elementary School. Other guest performers included students from LaVilla School of the Arts, as well as the strings students from Pine Forest.

The purpose of this fundraiser was to raise awareness of the benefits of music in improving learning and facilitating student academic achievement. As such, four of the five DA students were alumni of Pine Forest demonstrating music as a path to success during the high school years.



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

DA Orchestra in the Community

On Monday March 7 DA String Pedagogy students delighted the preschoolers at St. Marks Lutheran Church day school with their rendition of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Preschoolers swayed, clapped, and conducted as they listened to the students perform the *Orange Blossom Special* and a short excerpt from one of the Brandenburg Concertos illustrating a "stepping" rhythm. Audience volunteers were given the opportunity to participate in the performance by playing with the orchestra during a performance of *Pop Goes the Weasel*.

The success of this first performance, and the enthusiasm of the preschoolers has encouraged Mr. Griffin and the orchestra students to take this performance "on the road". The word is out and requests are already coming in!



Master Classes and Guest Artists

In addition to their many rehearsals, our orchestra students are treated to the expertise of musicians from throughout the U.S. Since the holidays guests have included:

Guest Conductor Paul Davis, D.M.A. Director of Instrumental Studies, **Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri.**



Performers Jordana Greenberg (violin, vocals), Rebecca Reed-Lunn (banjo, vocals) and Maria Di Meglio (cello, vocals).

As songwriters they described the nuances of songwriting from the perspective of music theory, engaging the students by demonstrating approaches to various elements in their music.

Performer and Guest Conductor Kelly Hall-Tompkins, violinist

Achieving numerous awards within the U.S. and internationally over the years, Mrs. Tompkins is concertmaster in the Broadway revival of *"Fiddler on the Roof"*, playing all of the iconic solos. Describing her techniques for keeping the music "fresh" she played several passages from the production for the students.



Corporate & Private Sponsorships

Many guest artists offer their services to our students at no charge. Others charge expenses, and still others require remuneration. To provide our students with a wide variety opportunities and experiences sponsorships are greatly appreciated. If you, or your corporation is interested in sponsoring a guest artist please contact Brian Griffin. griffinb1@duvalschools.org

Orchestra Awards Banquet

This year orchestra students and their guests will enjoy an evening "on top of the world" at the University Club of Jacksonville, Saturday May 7th.

Each year students are treated to this special event of dinner, dancing, and awards. And every year the event planners—parent volunteers—excel in their efforts to provide a memorable experience for the students. This year will be no exception.

Parents and students interested in planning an event theme, decorations, and activities should contact Robin Lang blang82521@bellsouth.net

Calendar of Events

Tuesday March 15, 7:30 pm	Senior Recital	Friday Musicales
	*All Juniors and Seniors are Required to Attend	
Friday March 18—Monday March 28	Spring Break	
Tuesday April 19, 6:30 pm	Booster Meeting	Orchestra Room
	* All parents are urged to attend	
Saturday May 7, 6:30 pm	Orchestra Awards Banquet	University Club
Tuesday May 17, 7:30 pm	Orchestra Spring Concert	Location:TBD

For additional information about our program please visit our website:

www.daorchestra.org