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BEMIDJI MUSIC STUDIO

Noteworthy News

Summer 2018

Just a few notes...

By: Ashley Hodapp

Summer Practicing Habits

Summer practice habits are not much different than school year habits – no matter what we tell ourselves! Sometimes our pace in life is more of a sprint in the summer, versus a marathon during the school year, but habits are habits....no matter the race! If you want music to be an activity in the summer, make sure to make a priority. Most of the time, what I write and say to you comes from me as a teacher AND me as a parent. This time, it's just as a teacher. (And I'll read and take my own advice as a parent later!) Nothing crushes the forward momentum of a child like having to continually come to their lesson feeling unprepared. As a teacher, I can assign less for them to accomplish, encourage during my time with them, review what they already know (or help relearn what they have forgotten), but I can't add wind for their sails that last an entire week....only consistent practicing can do that. As parents, YOU have to make sure that they have the time to practice. During the school year, some kids get up and practice early in the morning before school, so they're not too tired or busy after school. Summer doesn't have to be different! Get up and practice before baseball, hockey, Vacation Bible School....whatever your activities are that week. It is the honest to goodness truth that students who practice MORE enjoy playing more. They feel good and confident about what they're playing, and WANT to play it more! Let your kids know your expectation for them as soon as you leave the lesson, then put your ~~money~~, I mean encouraging words, where your mouth is! Don't nag, just encourage and remind them (yes, continually!) that you talked about it after the lesson, and this is what is expected. Kids who refuse to practice even WHEN

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the parents help remind all week long are probably not into it, and maybe a lesson spent as a parent-teacher-student conference would be worth it!

Looking ahead to fall

I have spent the last couple of weeks off of lessons getting ready for fall! I need another few weeks to put some final thoughts together, but there are some new and VERY exciting changes coming to the studio this fall. Much of these ideas have been floating around in my brain for a few years, and I'm finally ready to put them into action! I can't tell you too much too soon...but I know you'll love them!

Seek Out Live Music

One last tidbit, and plug for local music concerts and festivals....

There is no better way to motivate your kids, than to take them to see live music. From Music on the Mississippi (<https://www.bemidjiodowntown.com/mississippi-music-festival>) to the Music Under the Pines (<https://www.visitbemidji.com/event/music-under-the-pines-3/>), Bemidji Symphony's Summer Pop Concert (<http://www.bemidjisympphony.org/>) and Bemidji Area Community Band (<https://www.bemidjipioneer.com/entertainment/music/4457942-sweeter-song-bemidji-area-community-band-prepares-summer-concert-series>), Lake Itasca Music Festival (<http://familybluegrass.com/>) which includes a fiddle contest with cash prizes, the Beltrami County Fair (<http://beltramicountyfair.org/Stage.html>) has live music, and a kid's talent show on Wednesday, August 8. All of these take YOUR time, but this area is FULL of opportunities to expose your kids to LIVE music. I can't tell you what an impact this makes for your kids – even if it's not the instrument that they are learning to play. To see others dedicating time and passion toward music will only motivate them to as well! (And many of them are FREE, so you really have no excuse!)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

100 DAY CLUB PARTY

LAKE BEMIDJI STATE PARK PAVILION

THURSDAY, JUNE 21ST, 5-7PM

RSVP in studio or

https://drive.google.com/open?id=15mVCuDlnHKsgdcOoaw5DiUPN8_3K9tvjvsqcgdkHCCk

FALL REGISTRATION OPENS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1ST.

ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY, FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

Link will not be active until August 1st!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiRMav0jPPeu_ZMELejDECOrKUA4qCiQ6tOBdUoGYmaBUKVQ/closedform

BACK TO LESSONS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

NYMORE PARK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 4-6PM

Join us for a back-to-lessons ice cream social! Come play at the park and enjoy a sweet treat!

LESSONS BEGIN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

100 Day Club Party

Our 100 Day Club Party will be held on Thursday, June 21st from 5-7pm at the Lake Bemidji State Park Lakeside Pavilion. Anyone who made it into the 100 Day Club this year is welcome-along with their family!

This will be a potluck taco bar, so please sign up in the studio or

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15mVCuDlnHKsgdcOoaw5DiUPN8_3K9tvjvsqcgdkHCCk/edit?usp=sharing to bring something to share. Please RSVP by Wednesday, June 21st so I have an idea of about how many to expect!

We'll plan to hand out awards and take pictures at 6:30, so even if you can't come for the meal, feel free to come a little later to get your ribbon!

I will post some pictures and a final list of our 2018 100 – 800 Day Club winners online after the party!

If you didn't make it into the 100 Day Club this year, don't worry – we try again EVERY YEAR!! I started this as an encouragement for students to keep working hard all through the long winter months, and finish strong in the spring! If you didn't make it this year, next year might be your year!!

PRACTICE TIP

Don't let one bad week (or month) stop you!

This is much easier said than done...but just because you can't or don't practice for a bit, doesn't mean you should throw in the towel for good! Let your next lesson get you back on track, and make a pact with your child that TOGETHER you're going to do better. This is an easy thing....really! If you practice only 1 or 2 days between lessons because you had 437 things going on, just do better the next week – shoot for 3 days. The next week, try to do better, until you're on the right track! In case you missed my cover "pep talk", go back and re-read it. Summer is a different pace, but if you want music to be enjoyable, and your child to FEEL good about what they're playing, you need to help them get on track. This means helping them re-establish goals as often as they need it!