

UpBeat!

Monthly Calendar of NYC P.S. 859 – The Special Music School

May 2009

Message from the Academic Director—Jenny Bonnet

As we all know, May is a very busy month at SMS! I'm hoping this year we've been successful at keeping it a little less hectic. We have several events coming up. Please remember the Barnes & Noble Play-a-thon, is this Sunday, May 3rd. I am happy there has been such enthusiasm and I am sure this will be a banner year for fundraising! Our K-5 NDI performances begin at 6:00PM on Thursday, May 7th at P.S. 199. Along with incredible performances by the children and an amazing tribute to John Lennon, there will be some mystery performers! I wish everyone the best of luck with their evaluations this month! Finally, don't forget the Kaufman Center's Annual Celebration on May 27th "A Joyful Noise". Enjoy the May weather - hopefully April showers will bring May flowers!

Message from the Music Director—Jenny Undercofler

The month of May has crept up on us! Scale and sight-reading tests are finishing up (congratulations everyone), and then we start Evaluations and Grade Concerts on Monday, May 18th! I'm sure that they will be great because I know that everyone has been working hard this semester. Also, a reminder to please come hear Face the Music "and friends" play the US Premiere of Grisey's "Manifestations" in Merkin Hall on Tuesday, May 5th at 8 PM. Probably the only time you will see balloons popped on the Merkin stage!!!

Mark Your Calendars

May 3, Sunday—Barnes and Noble Play-a-thon, 10AM-7:15 PM, Barnes & Noble Recital Room, 66th St./Lincoln Triangle.

May 5, Tuesday—Face The Music, at Merkin Hall, 8PM.

May 6, Wednesday—SMS Executive Board Meeting, 8:45AM, 1st Fl.

Community Service Concert, Kindergarten, The Esplanade, 11AM.

May 7, Thursday—End of Year N.D.I. Performance, PS 199, 6PM.

May 13, Wednesday—General PTA Meeting, 8:45AM, cafeteria.

May 15, Friday—Middle School Chorus performs at Grand Central Station, Main Hall staircase, New York Songs, accompanied by keyboard, 10AM-11:30AM.

May 18, Monday-June 3, Wednesday—Music evaluations.

May 21, Thursday—End Of Year Grade concerts, Grade K.

May 22, Friday—End Of Year Grade concerts, Grades 2, 5 and 7

May 25, Monday—School closed, Memorial Day.

UpBeat!

May 27, Wednesday—Kaufman Center Benefit, 'A Joyful Noise', Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 6:30PM.

May 28, Thursday—End Of Year Grade Concerts, Grades 3 and 4.

May 29, Friday—No Private Music lessons, Kaufman Center Closed in observance of Shavuot.

May 31, Sunday —Chamber Festival, Merkin Hall, 3PM.

Looking Ahead to June

June 2/3, Tuesday/Wednesday—Grade 8 Social Studies Testing

June 3, Wednesday — Spring Evaluations End.

SMS Executive Board Meeting, 5:30PM, 1st Fl. Boardroom

June 4, Thursday— School Closed, Chancellor's Day.

June 5, Friday— End of Year Grade Concerts, Grades 1 and 6.

June 8, Monday—End of Year Grade Concerts, Grade 8 (evening).

June 9, Tuesday—Early Dismissal, 11:30AM.

June 10, Wednesday—Spring Choral Concert, Merkin Hall, 1:30PM.

June 11, Thursday—General PTA Meeting, 8:45AM, cafeteria.

June 12, Friday—Talent Show, PS 199, 6PM

June 14, Sunday—MTA Transit Museum, 'Melodies in Motion: Transit Songs". Middle school students will present choral music from Taiwan, New Zealand, and South Africa, as well as jazz favorites, spirituals and well-known children's songs.

June 17, Wednesday—SMS School Picnic, Central Park at 93rd Street, 5:00PM.

June 19, Friday—8th Grade Math Regents 1:15PM.

June 22, Monday—Graduation, 5th and 8th grade.

June 26, Friday—Last Day of school, early dismissal, 11:30AM.

SMS Community News

2009-2010 PTA ELECTION – NOMINATIONS ARE NOW!!

EVERYONE IS INVITED to join the PTA Executive Board! Is this the year you can take on one of the jobs that keeps this small but vibrant parent organization going? (No, it doesn't happen automatically! The good news, if you don't like election campaigns, is that there has never been a contested position – this is a team with more than enough work to share.) Please – help edit the Upbeat (with the VP of Communications), let us improve our meeting records (Recording Secretaries needed – easy, and easy to share), track volunteer hours, run an event, coordinate fundraising, or step up and offer to take on a new role that the you know your school community needs. All the jobs of the Exec Board of the PTA are listed at smsparents.org. A **slate of proposed names needs to be created at the MAY 5th Executive Board meeting** and it will be announced at the May 13th General Meeting. The **election by the parent body will take place June 11th**, and the results will be announced immediately. Questions? Contact Degna Levister, (degnal@gmail.com.)

UpBeat!

CLASS PARENTS: SIGN UP FOR 09-10 BY MAY 30th

Class parent assignments are not part of the regular PTA Exec Board elections BUT all grades should have class parents for next year determined before June. Is this your year to step up and share the class parent role? It is one of the vital jobs in the school community, increasingly important, and very flexible as to time, meeting attendance, etc. A wonderful way to deepen your connection to your own grade and to the school, and give back to the community – this is the “front line” of every grade and the heard of our community at the parent level. Again, announcements will be made June 11th, so please step up.

SMS Executive Board (EB) Meeting

Wednesday, May 5th, 8:45AM. 1st Floor Boardroom. Executive Board meetings are open to all parents. If you have an item for the agenda, in advance of the meeting, please contact any member of the EB to discuss it.

SMS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) General Meeting

Wednesday, May 13th, 8:45AM, Cafeteria. Please join us!

SMSMiddleSchool@gmail.com on Google Calendar

The calendar is up and running! Information is available on projects and assignments through the end of this school year. Check it out! All middle school families have access to our eight color-coded calendars for the middle school. Use of the calendars; smsmiddleschool, humanities, math, ms chorus, music history, music theory, science and SMS academic & music, has been embraced by faculty and parents. Anyone who would like access to the calendars (including middle school students!) should email smsmiddleschool@gmail.com Are you having difficulty accessing the calendars? Email this address to schedule an in-person appointment.

SMS Parents is on Facebook!

Our Facebook group is a fun way to get to know and stay in touch with other Special Music School parents. There are 21 members already! Just login to Facebook and search for "Special Music School Parents" then click "Join Group." Looking forward to seeing you online!

NYC Dept. of Ed. 2009-2010 Calendar

The NYC Department of Education 2009-2010 school year calendar is now available on line at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/F5C4C865-B4FF-45BE-A396-536C0695EEDB/55916/20092010SchoolYearCalendar.pdf>

Fundraising

Don't Miss Barnes and Noble Play-a-Thon on Sunday, May 3rd!

Bring friends and family, and enjoy all of our talented children! Bring your SHOPPING LISTS and USE YOUR VOUCHERS! We get a percentage of ALL SALES! Have lunch or coffee in the cafe, and USE YOUR VOUCHER! B&N has loads of gifts, and a terrific music selection downstairs. Also, make sure to check out the books on our Teachers' wish lists, and the fabulous music recommended by our Music Teachers

UpBeat!

for your Summer listening! Have Questions? Contact Jennifer Kingston (jenniferkingston@yahoo.com) or Silvia Sanchez (silviasanchez@nyc.rr.com)

Kaufman Center Benefit, May 27th! Don't miss 'A Joyful Noise!'

Have a fantastic evening out at the elegant Mandarin Oriental Hotel AND contribute to the KC and your child's music education at the same time! 100% of the proceeds go to supporting the Kaufman Center. 'A Joyful Noise' promises to be a celebration of the Center with extra special performances by some of our own SMS children, directed by Sean Hartley. **A big Thank You! to so many of our classes who purchased Journal Ads! Your donation to the KC is enormously appreciated.** Would you like to buy Benefit tickets? Use your invitation to respond, or purchase online at www.kaufman-center.org/support/ajoyfulnoise. Questions? Contact Erica Raven in the Development Department 212 501-3350. As always, thanks for your participation!

Keep Those PTA Dues Coming!

For everyone who still needs to make a PTA contribution, please do so as soon as possible. \$400 is the requested amount; but any amount in your means is great! Please write checks to "SMS PTA". Envelopes marked SMS PTA Treasurer can be given to teachers or put in the 5th floor mailbox for the PTA Treasurers! Thanks to all who have contributed, and hope your class reaches 100% participation soon!

Don't forget to Shop Amazon!

Need Mother's Day gifts, need end of year gifts, or anything else you can think of? Start your Amazon shopping on the home page of SMSPARENTS.org and we earn a percentage on everything Amazon sells and every item in your Amazon shopping cart. Tell your family, friends and work colleagues. And remember, this is YEAR ROUND, so if you're shopping Amazon, SHOP THROUGH the SMS Website!

Special Reminders

Finally, remember to check out smsparents.org. It includes music and academic information for our school and, while the site remains under construction, new features and information are always being added to make it a useful source of information for busy SMS families. If you have suggestions about how to improve the website, please contact the editors.

You will receive UpBeat via email by the 1st of each month followed by backpack mail. Have suggestions? Like to add an item? Please submit them via email to Degna/Linda by the 20th of the previous month. Editors: Linda Hassani (Nils Krarup, 2) hasslin@aol.com and Degna Levister (Amory Benjamin, 5) degnal@gmail.com