



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL  
AT KAUFMAN CENTER  
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

# UpBeat

Monthly Calendar & Newsletter

**october 2011**

❖ **mark your calendar** ❖

**October 4, Tuesday**

8:45 a.m. PTA Executive Board Meeting

**October 7, Friday**

8:45 a.m. Town Hall meeting

**October 10, Monday**

NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day.

**October 12, Wednesday**

Erev Sukkot. Building closes at 5:00 p.m.

**October 17 & 18, Mon. & Tues.**

2:15 p.m. Performance Classes

**October 13 and 14,  
Thursday and Friday**

NO MUSIC LESSONS, Sukkot

**October 19, Wednesday**

Sukkot. Building closes at 5:00 p.m.

**October 20 and 21,  
Thursday and Friday -**

NO MUSIC LESSONS, Shmini Azeret  
and Simchas Torah

**October 20, Thursday**

7:00 p.m. MK Trio SMS Benefit at The  
Triad Theatre. See details on following  
pages of this UpBeat

**October 24 & 25, Mon. & Tues.**

2:15 p.m. Performance Classes

**October 26, Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. PTA General Meeting.

**October 29, Saturday**

4:00 p.m. SMS **Halloween Party** at  
P.S. 199. See details on following pages  
of this UpBeat

**October 31, Monday -**

Halloween. Sorry, school is in session.  
2:15 p.m. Performance Class

PRINCIPAL **Katherine Banucci-Smith**

**Happy October!** I want to welcome everyone to our first Town Meeting on Friday, October 7th at 8:30am. This will be our first opportunity to gather as a school community and celebrate the beginning of October as well as the academic studies of our students. We hope to begin and end with a song — so please be on-time.

MUSIC DIRECTOR **Jenny Undercofler**

While there are some performance classes in October, mostly this is a “practice and prepare month” for the music program. There are six performance classes, on Mondays and Tuesdays, starting October 11th, but other activities (community service concerts, Evaluations, etc.) will start in November. **Happy practicing!**

PTA CO-PRESIDENTS **Silvia & Yvonne**

**Homework Club is up and running!** The SMS PTA recognizes the need for Homework club to function along with the existing after school programs. After a lot of thinking and debating, we came with a Punch-card system which is simple, easy to understand and responds to the needs for flexibility among the families in our community. The committed support of all families, especially those who use this service, will guarantee the success of our program. We are trying this system in our Fall semester and will be reevaluating its effectiveness at the end of the year. There may be a chance that HC will look different in the new year. Please be patient as we iron out the many issues involved with running a strong after school program for our families.

If you are able to help with homework club or you have any suggestions, please email us at [smshwclub@gmail.com](mailto:smshwclub@gmail.com)

**100 Days of Practice** We are pleased to hear how different grades have come together with innovative ideas on how to motivate students and celebrate 100 Days of Practice. This year the initiative will be lead by class parents. Be sure you check with your classroom teacher to make sure they agree with your idea(s) about the celebration.

★ **SPECIAL NOTICE ABOUT DUES**

In our dues request letter, it stated that "the Special Music School PTA became a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Dues and contributions to the SMS PTA are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE." **We would like to clarify that "the Special Music School PTA, Inc. is applying for not-for-profit status. Our lawyer advises us that while this application is in process, donations are considered tax deductible because we fully expect the application to be granted.** We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Cynthia Lilley discusses her role in guiding the students in K - 3 to experience the “fun of being musical”.

## HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Please join your fellow SMS families on Saturday, October 29, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at PS 199, for this annual community-building social and fundraising event sponsored by the PTA. All SMS students, alumni, and their families and friends are invited. The family event is a potluck dinner and dance, with the added fun of friends in Halloween costumes and of a performance by the SMS Drama Club. Entry tickets are a suggested donation of \$10 for adult and \$5 for a child (age 3 and up). Food and beverage donations are needed for the potluck dinner (included with admission) and the dessert sale. Volunteers are needed to help plan and facilitate the event. Perhaps you'd like to lead fun dances (Limbo, anyone?), run an activity booth (ideas welcome!), set the scene with decorations, work at the entry table, help clean up when the party is over, or to volunteer your time in another way to make sure the event runs smoothly. For more event information and to volunteer, please e-mail [fundraisingsms@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisingsms@gmail.com).

Please note that this is not a drop-off event; parents/guardians are responsible for supervising their children. Costumes are strongly encouraged for children and adults alike!

Thanks!

SMS Halloween Committee

## PTA Dues: for the kids

Please consider forwarding your annual dues for the SMS PTA. Our **suggested PTA contribution this year is \$450 per student**. We would be grateful if you gave whatever amount you can, now, or in installments if necessary. The PTA is applying for an IRS designation of a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. **Dues and contributions to the SMS PTA will be TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.**

Your support helps provide:

- ◆ **NDI** for K-5, supported 1/3 by the parent community.
- ◆ **Italian Instruction** for grades 6-8, supported 100% by parents.
- ◆ **Classroom funds** and supplies.
- ◆ **Art supplies** - that the DOE does not provide.
- ◆ **Play yard equipment/supplies**
- ◆ **Community-building** events and communications from your PTA.
- ◆ **Screening for Lice.**

If you have any questions about your financial contributions to the SMS, please contact the SMS PTA Co-Treasurers at [smpta.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:smpta.treasurer@gmail.com).

Doris Chiu and Jorge Sanchez,  
SMS PTA Co-Treasurers

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If you start your Amazon shopping on the home page of [SMSPARENTS.org](http://SMSPARENTS.org) the SMS PTA earns a percentage on everything you purchase from Amazon. No details are disclosed. Tell your family, friends and colleagues. This is **YEAR ROUND**, so if you're shopping Amazon anyway, **SHOP THROUGH the SMS WEBSITE!**

### The DOE 2011-2012

Academic Calendar available at

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar/default.htm>

**SMS STUDENT DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR COPY!**

## SMS ONLINE AUCTION

This year, we will be launching the **FIRST ANNUAL SMS ONLINE AUCTION**. To help make it a grand success, we are requesting that each SMS family donate one item for the auction. Do you have a service you can offer (i.e. interior decorating, voice coaching, cooking instruction, life coaching)? Do you work in an interesting environment that would make a great tour? (A parent who worked in a science lab at a preschool once offered families a tour and a chance at doing a simple experiment.) Or is there a new, unused item at home—a labeler you bought by mistake; an iPad you won at a raffle—that you've been meaning to sell but haven't gotten around to? We will also have a list of area restaurants and retailers that donate at various school auctions; if you prefer, you can donate your time soliciting these businesses instead. (We will provide you with the list and the forms necessary.) We will also need help managing the auction, which includes, among other things, keeping track of inventory and entering items on the Web site; so if you'd like to take on a bigger role, please sign up to manage or co-manage the auction. After the auction is over, we will need a few parents to help distribute auction items before the December break. To volunteer, or for more information, please email us at: [fundraisingsms@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisingsms@gmail.com)

## MUSIC THEORY: *Cynthia Lilley*

Studying the elements of music is like learning a language. Children don't learn music theory by being told about it; they learn by experiencing it in multiple ways and practicing over and over until their knowledge becomes second nature. My job as a music theory teacher for first through third grades is to give students those experiences and opportunities to practice. This involves singing, moving, speaking, playing, writing, reading, and, of course, listening; and all of these happen in multiple combinations. As the children know more, and as they mature, the details of what they do evolves, but the premise remains the same. It is a sort of learning spiral.

Every week, 1st through 3rd graders take one Eurhythmics class and one "Sitdown-with-a-pencil" class. Although these classes look very different they are both essential and support one another.

"Eurhythmics" is the term used in the Dalcroze approach for employing movement to develop an understanding, both kinesthetic and intellectual, of rhythm. The children take class barefoot, ready to walk, skip, jog, run; and ready to experience, express, and identify rhythmic patterns, meter, form, and so forth. The physicalizing often takes the form of a game, in which the children must stay alert with their ears and entire body, listening for musical qualities, cues, and signals given by my playing at the piano or from a recorded piece. Not only do the children

learn to respond; they learn to do so with sensitivity and artfulness. We all know that "it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing"; Eurhythmics class enables the students to feel that "swing" by experiencing it in a personal and total way, and by making it their own.

The Eurhythmics work also helps students develop their cognitive skills in a manner that makes theory personally accessible. Both in Eurhythmics and in "Sit-Down" theory class, students access and apply what they have been learning in their "games." In the Solfege parts of class we climb inside the music from a melodic and harmonic point of view. Skills evolve through singing scales in numerous ways, singing songs and phrases using syllables and numbers, writing and reading, improvising and, ultimately, composing. Once again, children identify musical concepts by experiencing them directly. The voice and the ear are finely tuned to one another.

Of course, students need to do the rote learning of the names of notes on the staff, memorizing key signatures, identifying intervals, taking dictation and the like. But because the elements of music are intimately ingrained, the pencil part of theory is an extension of the fun of being musical.

*Cynthia Lilley*



A benefit concert is being held for

Kaufman Center's  
*Special Music School*

featuring the voices of

*MK Trio*  
with Tony Kunin on piano

The Triad Theatre  
158 W 72nd St.  
[www.triadnyc.com](http://www.triadnyc.com)

Thursday, October 20th  
7:00 pm

Tickets: \$20  
[www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)  
or sold at the door

## Accentuate the Positive!

*The reviews are in – they're a hit!*  
*"Pure fun and Joy" ... "My feet would not stop jivin" ... "A must".*

SMS' very own, Melissa Attebury Kristy Glass and Mary Pantoga, better known as Liam, Lucy, Olive, Darby and Olivia's moms, or the MK Trio, will be performing a benefit concert for the school on Thursday, October 20th. Visit the link below to hear a sampling of the trio (wow), and to purchase your tickets. You will not be disappointed.  
[www.mktrio.blogspot.com](http://www.mktrio.blogspot.com)

# FREE MONEY FOR SMS



Clip your Box Tops 4 Education coupons and drop them off at one of the convenient containers around the school. It's fast, it's easy and it's **FREE MONEY FOR THE SMS PTA**. For more information on Box Tops 4 Education and a complete list of participating products, go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com>.

STARTING OCTOBER 3, 2011

## *Annual Costume & Concert Clothing Sale*

The PTA and Amelia DeMayo would like to announce the upcoming third annual **Halloween Costume Sale** and **Concert Clothing Sale**. For these sales, we collect donations of gently worn (or brand new and never used, grew out of it too quick, and the like) Halloween Costumes and "Performance Class appropriate" concert wear. We then have a **Sale** of the received merchandise and the proceeds go directly to the Special Music School's PTA.

We will set up a collection box in the school lobby the first week in October. Please place your item(s) in a clean bag and send in a hanger with your item if at all possible.

Look for PTA email announcements with dates, times and locations of the sales. We will start the sales the first week in October and continue all through the spring. Thank you in advance for your donations. Tell your friends and family. This is a great way to find fun costumes for Halloween, great outfits for performances, all at exceptional prices ... and help the school at the same time. **Volunteers are needed to help on Sale Days!**

For further information contact Amelia DeMayo at: [agdmay@aol.com](mailto:agdmay@aol.com)

**SMS Merchandise** — Show your SMS pride! Help develop and sell fun and useful merchandise bearing the SMS logo. **Contact PTA Co-VP for Fundraising Natanya Freed** at [fundraisingsms@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisingsms@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank you to all those parents who filled out and submitted their SMS Student Directory Consent Forms. If you have not done so, please take a moment and do so now. If you need a form, ask your class parent for a blank. Thank you. **PTA Co-VP's of Communications.**

november 2011

❖ looking ahead ❖

**November 4, Friday**

8:30 a.m. Town Hall Meeting

**November 6, Sunday**

Daylight Savings Time begins

**November 8, Tuesday**

NO SCHOOL, Election Day

**November 11, Friday**

NO SCHOOL, Veteran's Day

**November 15, Tuesday**

8:45 a.m. PTA Executive Board Meeting  
Half-Day/Early dismissal, PT conferences

**November 17, Thursday**

3:00 p.m. SLT Meeting

**November 23, Wednesday**

NO KARATE

**November 24 and 25,**

**Thursday and Friday**

NO SCHOOL. Thanksgiving

**November 28, Monday**

8:45 a.m. PTA General Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Winter's Eve at TD Bank

**November 29, Tuesday**

Grade 3 Evaluations

### **UpBeat** Input:

You will receive UpBeat! Monthly via email. Have a suggestion or would like to work on Upbeat? Contact editors: Dova Marder or Stephen Friedgood (parents of Matan, 2nd Grade) at

[dmarder@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dmarder@nyc.rr.com) or  
[sfriedgood@nyc.rr.com](mailto:sfriedgood@nyc.rr.com).

### **SMS Website.** Visit [smsparents.org](http://smsparents.org)

for information about our school. You will also find an up-to-date school calendar on the website (top tab CALENDAR). Please visit the website and let us know what we can do to make it a more useful tool for you and your student(s) at SMS. It is a work in progress and we would love your input. Email Co-VP Communications Stephen Friedgood at [sfriedgood@nyc.rr.com](mailto:sfriedgood@nyc.rr.com).