

New Providence Music Boosters Newsletter

Volume 8 Number 1

October 2006

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to a new school year. We have had a wonderful opening, and our students have brought back enthusiasm and excitement to their studies and co-curricular activities. This year promises to continue the excellence in the Music Education and Performing Arts Department. As participation in the program continues to grow, students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their talent in many of the varied performances over the course of the year.

One of these opportunities will be the high school music department's trip to Orlando, Florida, this spring. The trip will be available to over 300 students in grades 9-12, and will offer our students the opportunity to perform on a prominent national stage. I would like to thank all you who have been involved in the planning and preparation of this wonderful trip.

We also look forward to the 3rd Faculty Recital, which will be held on October 17, 2006, at 7:00 pm in the high school auditorium. This performance will include district faculty from both in and outside of the department with all proceeds going to the New Providence Music Boosters. This show is assured to be a great event.

As our district continues to attract talented professionals to our Music Education and Performing Arts Department, we welcome our newest member Ms. Celeste DeNicuolo, Band Director at Allen W. Roberts, who will join our veteran department staff that currently boasts over 80 years of teaching experience within the district. I know you will join me in welcoming her.

I would like to recognize the commitment and dedication of our Department Head of Music Education and Performing Arts, Michael Niedziejko, and every member of our gifted department. Their untiring efforts are demonstrated in their work with our children and the performances they cultivate. I would also like to thank our Board of Education, the Music Boosters, parents, and community for their ongoing support of our programs. It is wonderful to experience a school community that fosters the performing arts.

As we begin a new year, I look forward to all of the magical performances ahead, and wish everyone an exciting and fulfilling year.

DAVID M. MICELI
Interim Superintendent of Schools

MESSAGE FROM OUR DEPARTMENT HEAD

We come to yet another year full of excitement, anticipation and yes, Music! We are very fortunate to be welcoming one new member to the department. Celeste DeNicuolo is teaching elementary band and recorder at Allen W. Roberts School and she is also serving as the Assistant Marching Band Director at the High School. She is extremely talented and will no doubt embellish and add to the performing arts department in a multitude of ways.

As we look forward to this year, many exciting things are on the horizon. The faculty will once again be performing in a recital to raise funds for the performing arts department. The recital will be directly following a general membership meeting on Tuesday, October 17th. The general membership meeting will take place at 7:00 pm and the recital will follow beginning at 7:30 pm. The recital will feature a majority of the performing arts faculty from the district and may include some faculty outside of the department as well. This will be the third recital we have done and we are very eager to perform for you once again.

The high school music department trip is to Orlando, Florida this year and will include visits and performances to many of the Walt Disney World Resort Theme Parks. This trip will take place April 12 - 16. This is an opportunity that comes along once every four years. Other highlights include: the fall dramatic production entitled "The Triangle Factory Fire Project", the spring musical "Guys and Dolls" and of course all of the annual seasonal concerts and performances produced by the entire performing arts department. We invite you to come and witness the wonderful dividends of our students' talent and dedication.

We are so very fortunate in New Providence to have a community, staff and administration committed to the arts and who believe in the value of arts education as an integral part of a child's education. I am excited about the upcoming year and I look forward to seeing you at our performances.

MICHAEL NIEDZIEJKO
Department Head of Music and Performing Arts
High School Director of Bands

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

On behalf of the New Providence Music Boosters welcome back to another exciting year of music and performance. Music Boosters is an organization devoted to the support of all New Providence music and performing arts programs kindergarten through grade 12. Whether providing funds for music programs performed by experts, purchasing specialty drums, digital pianos, choir robes, or stage lighting trusses, Music Boosters has one goal in mind. That is to enhance our children's opportunity for self expression and creativity through music and performance. We as a district have been, and continue to be, incredibly privileged to have a superior faculty whose guidance allows our children this balance in their education.

Please help us reach our goal this year of having a membership of at least 500 families! Membership is very important to Music Boosters. With your membership fee of \$20.00/family we can supplement the existing department budget and continue to fund programs and buy equipment. Supporting the performing arts faculty is our way sending the message that they are valued and to support the reputation of excellence in performance programs at New Providence schools. This will continue to attract talented, committed performing arts educators when they are looking for a "home".

You may be asking yourself, how you can become a member of Music Boosters. Contained in this newsletter on page 5 is a membership form. Simply fill it out and return it to you child's school along with a family membership fee of \$20.00 (checks can be made payable to New Providence Music Boosters) or you can send it directly to our Music Booster's Membership Chair, Evelyn Agresti at 12 Hedden Place, NP. We also gratefully accept any additional donations. As a member of Music Boosters you will receive periodic emails informing you of upcoming performance events in the district. You also can **volunteer** to help out at any of Music Boosters events such as the Ice Cream Social, Market Day, the Faculty Recital and many more!! The Ice Cream Social this year will be March 22. We can always use people to scoop ice cream, take tickets or supervise.

Another way to support Music Boosters is to **BUY** Market Day products. Market Day is a grocery purchase program and fundraiser that directly supports our organization. Market Day flyers are sent out monthly in the elementary schools and high school and middle school families can order directly from the website www.marketday.com (see advertisement on page 4 for more information).

Remember to **consult** the music events calendar in this newsletter and **attend** the many musical and performance events throughout the year. The Marching Band performs at all the high school varsity football games as well as at competitions. The theme this year is "Wicked" with music selections from the popular Broadway musical. The high school musical, "Guys and Dolls" and fall play, "The Triangle Factory Fire Project" promise to be crowd pleasers! The amazing high school vocal recitals in both January and May are a personal favorite of mine and I highly recommend attending especially if you are an aspiring vocalist in elementary or middle school. "Sweets and Strings", as well as the traditional concerts are all additional showcases for the best in New Providence music and performance programs.

At this time I would like to recognize the tremendous efforts and dedication from the Music Boosters Board, Linda Dinerman as vice president, Anita Murphy as treasurer, Jamie Baer-Peterson as secretary, Susan Peterson as webmaster, and Evelyn Agresti (new to our group) as membership chair. I would also like to thank Lynn Boyer, past Music Booster's President, who continues to coordinate our Market Day fundraiser. These ladies along with Mr. "N" are "instrumental" in making all that we work on a success!!

In closing, if you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the Music Boosters Board members. You can keep posted on upcoming events by visiting our new Music Boosters website at www.npmusicboosters.org We are proud of our music and performing arts programs here in New Providence and are looking forward to a wonderful, musical year ahead.

MAUREEN KROEGER
President, Music Boosters

MUSIC BOOSTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

Maureen Kroeger	President	665-4206	jfkroeger@aol.com
Linda Dinerman	Vice President	665-1326	teaparties2@comcast.net
Anita Murphy	Treasurer	665-2726	amurph@comcast.net
Jamie Baer-Peterson	Secretary	790-8801	jamiebaer@aol.com
Susan Peterson	Website	665-1281	webmaster@npmusicboosters.org
Evelyn Agresti	Membership Chair	508-0509	raagresti@comcast.net
Michael Niedziejko	Ex-officio	464-4700	jakeman1971@hotmail.com



**SHOP MARKET DAY AND
SUPPORT MUSIC IN OUR
SCHOOLS**

www.marketday.com
account number 13649

MARKET DAY

For the past eight years, the Music Boosters Organization has successfully run a Market Day grocery sale each month in throughout the school district. We like Market Day as a fundraiser because it involves no door-to-door selling and offers quality products at a reasonable price. Each family has their favorites – snacks for lunches, gourmet meats, quick and easy to prepare dinners – all at competitive prices!!

We have already earned over **\$14,000** from Market Day to help purchase equipment and fund programs for all four of our schools. If you haven't made a Market Day purchase yet, please give it a try, as it is a simple way to support music in our schools!

Order from Market Day online at www.marketday.com until noon on Wednesday before the sale – by far the easiest and most efficient way to do so – or you can submit a paper order to the schools by the Wednesday two weeks prior to the pick-up date. Look for our order forms in your child's back-pack each month (elementary schools only). NPHS and NPMS can order via website.

MARKET DAY PICK-UP DATES 2006 - 2007: (All Tues. from 5-6pm, except where noted *)

PICK-UP LOCATION: NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Sept. 26	Feb. 27
Oct. 24	March 27
Nov. 21	April 24
Dec. 19	May 29
Jan. 30	June 19*

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help with Market Day distribution on pick-up days. Please contact Lynn Boyer (lboyer@npmusicboosters.org) if you can help.

WORLD MUSIC DRUMMING COMES TO AWR

Greetings from Allen W. Roberts School! This year our students are enjoying an addition to our general music program - World Music Drumming. Through drumming students will develop more acute listening skills, greater rhythmic precision, and have more opportunities to improvise. We will work to improve basic ensemble skills such as following a steady beat, listening to and blending with other parts, and teamwork. Students will also experience other cultures through their music, particularly the African drumming traditions which intertwine song, dance and character education. To work together the drum ensemble must use respect, fairness, sharing, and cooperation. And let's face it, what child doesn't want to hit a drum?!

Over the summer I took a graduate training course to prepare for this initiative. The Music Boosters provided a generous grant with which to buy tunable tubanos, shekeres (rattles), and authentic African gankogui (double bells). After only two weeks in school our second and fourth graders have begun developing their drumming technique while engaging in "Echo" activities. Fifth graders have improvised some "Question and Answer" patterns. The sixth grade module completed a unit on the culture and geography of West Africa through indigenous song and full drum ensemble. We're off to a wonderful start!

One of my greatest inspirations in World Drumming is our own Miss Starr. I'm so excited that she will be introducing her drumming activities to AWR's third graders. You can count on lots of joyful noise coming from Room E-B this year!

KENNETH HESS
Director of Vocal Music AWR



MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING DATES:

October 17, 2006 7:00pm *

January 30, 2006 7:30pm

March 27, 2006 7:30pm

May 1, 2006 7:30pm

Located in the NPHS/MS orchestra room

*** Located in NPMS auditorium**

DRAMA UPDATE

The NPHS Drama Department is looking forward to a very exciting year. We begin with what promises to be one of our most challenging and thought-provoking productions to date, *The Triangle Factory Fire Project*. This newly published play focuses on the tragic fire which claimed the lives of 146 young immigrant women working at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York in 1911. The play uses eyewitness accounts, court transcripts, music, and projections to create a dramatic moment-by-moment account of this historic event and the controversial trial which followed. The style of the play presents a real challenge for our advanced drama students, who will be required to portray multiple roles with minimal costumes and props. 10 actors will portray the approximately 40 factory workers, family members, police officers, lawyer, judges, and union officials who experienced this tragedy, some of whom survived and many who did not. The play is a moving and heartfelt testimonial of those who perished in 1911, which I think adds some poignant perspective to our own more recent tragedy of 9/11. *The Triangle Factory Fire Project* is sure to be one of the most rewarding theatrical events of the year. Don't miss it! **Nov. 17 and 18 at 7:30pm.**

For our Spring Musical, we are very pleased and excited to present *Guys and Dolls*. Based on a collection of colorful short stories by Damon Runyon, *Guys and Dolls* tells the story of a group of small-time gamblers and the ladies in their lives. Nathan Detroit bets his pal, Sky Masterson, that he can't make the next lady he sees fall in love with him, and when the next 'doll' happens to be the prim and proper neighborhood missionary Sarah Brown, the stage is set for an evening of high spirited entertainment, set to the toe-tapping beat of Frank Loesser's superlative score.

Loesser's score features classic songs such as "Luck Be A Lady", "Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat", "Adelaide's Lament", "If I Were A Bell" and of course the wonderful title song 'Guys and Dolls'. **March 16, 17 at 7:30pm, 18 at 3:00pm.**

In the Spring, we are pleased to present a series of scenes, monologues, and cabaret-style performances that are sure to leave you with a smile. Drawing on class performances, new faces, and maybe even some returning veteran talent, the *Spring Showcase* will certainly serve as a fitting send-off to a fantastic year for NPHS Drama. **May 11 at 7:30pm.**

And finally, though it seems a long way off, we would like to announce what we hope will become a long-standing tradition; a Summer Musical production for the whole community! Plans are underway to stage *Bye-Bye Birdie* as the premiere production of a new community theatre group here in New Providence. This event would draw on the talents of not only our high school students and staff, but our returning alumni, middle school, elementary students, and adult community members as well. If you would like to volunteer your time, talents, or resources to this exciting new program, please feel free to contact me so we can make you a part of our exciting Summer Musical. **Dates and times to be announced.**

As our students continue to grow and mature as performers and artists, we in the Drama and Music programs want to provide them with challenging opportunities to explore their strengths. As you can see, this promises to be a very busy and exciting year for NPHS Drama. We appreciate your continued support and hope to see you on many successful opening nights!

CRAIG DUKE
Drama Director, NPHS/NPMS

**NPHS DRAMA DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS
FALL 2006 PRODUCTION OF**



The Triangle Factory Fire Project

**November 17 and 18
7:30pm**

Check npmusicboosters.org for ticket information

NEW DIMENSIONS TO THE NPMS CHORAL PROGRAM

Small group voice classes are up and running at NPMS!

Imagine what it's like to walk into a room of about 140 people, sit down next to someone you may or may not know and SING. In much the same way that New Yorkers identify themselves as from The West Village, SOHO or Yorkville, choristers need to find their niche in a busy choral rehearsal. Small group voice classes, like the instrumental lessons in which the band and orchestra students participate, are designed to give the students the knowledge that they need in order to become a contributing member of the ensemble.

As with anything new, no small amount of trepidation was detected when students would ask questions such as, "Do I have to sing in front of everyone?" or "Do I have to sing alone?" These are good questions and pretty rational fears which I calmed when I explained that the program isn't intended to be a traditional voice lesson where the students work on solo repertoire, but an opportunity to teach them, in a small group setting, the skills that they need to be productive members of a large ensemble.

Another question heard from students and parents alike is, "When are we going to have these classes?" The voice classes are scheduled on a rotating basis, similar to the instrumental lesson program that has been working quite well. The main benefit of this schedule is that it is designed so that the students would not miss the same class each week. A unique feature to the voice class schedule is that the classes meet for 30 minutes rather than 44 minutes so that the students are in their regularly scheduled class for a portion of each period.

"What if I have a test (or other special activity) when I'm scheduled for a lesson?" The schedule is designed to allow make up lessons each week. I'll be taking special notice to see that students do not repeatedly miss the same class. Already, several chorus members have been mindful about seeing me in a timely manner, which tells me that they are learning wonderful lessons about commitment, responsibility and time management.

"That was fun!" "When do we get to come back?" These were snippets of conversations overheard as middle school chorus members were leaving the chorus room after their first voice classes last week.

These new voice classes are designed to not only instruct the children in solid vocal technique and address the anxiety some children face when learning to sing in a large group, but also to promote team building within our ensemble. I'm looking forward to a wonderful choral experience with your children this year! (Special thanks to Mr. Niedziejko and Mrs. Hansen for the support and planning it took to get this program underway.)

In addition to seeing your children in small groups during voice class I am also able to see more of them during chorus as Mr. Ken Hess now travels to the Middle School each day to accompany our rehearsals! With Mr. Hess at the piano, I am now free to stand in front of the students or walk about the room where I can listen, sing along, check posture and, at times, find gum. Not only am I delighted to have such a gifted pianist at each rehearsal, I'm thrilled to team up with another set of sharp eyes and keen ears each and every day. Welcome Mr. Hess! (Special thanks to Mr. Niedziejko, Ms. Searing and Dr. Sanders for making it possible for Mr. Hess to join us every day.)

CATHERINE FLYNN
Director of Vocal Music, NPMS

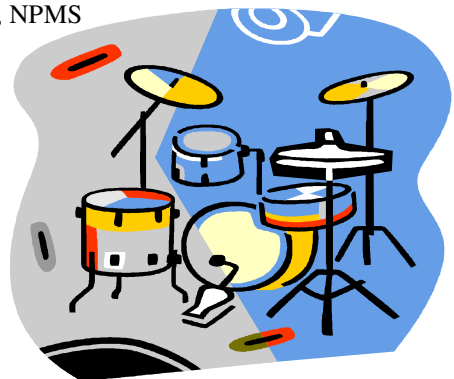
Check out Music and Performance Events on our NEW website: www.npmusicboosters.org



NPMS BAND

September is a time for new beginnings and a rejuvenation of the academic, athletic, and artistic experiences we share with our students. Through the years, I think these shared experiences have been most gratifying for me as a teacher. This year will be no different, as we experience new music, diligent individual effort, focused rehearsals, and the joy of performing. All of this happens during the course of our school year in the music department. I'm happy to be one of a group of staff members dedicated to bringing the very best educational and social environment to our students. We, as music teachers, are very fortunate to have parents of music students and an administration who feel as we do, that music education plays a vital role in the development of a child and its combination with academic, athletic and artistic study that makes for a rewarding and challenging education. I'm looking forward to another great year and good luck to us all.

GERRY POLCI
Band Director, NPMS



A WORD FROM NPHS VOCAL MUSIC

the event of rain, the Greetings Families and Friends!

It's so good to be back after a great summer (it did seem short, though, didn't it?). I really do miss working with the students over the summer. Their music lingers on in my head long after the concerts are over.

I enjoyed a very special trip to Italy in August, where I experienced many wonderful sights, sounds, and flavors! I even had the opportunity to see Puccini's *Turandot* in Rome at an outdoor stage, set among some of the city's ancient ruins. It was unforgettable. Professionally, I spent several days at a conference sponsored by the New Jersey chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. We have an excellent chapter here in New Jersey, and I always take so much away from the conferences.

This year looks to be an exciting one as we make plans for our spring music trip to Walt Disney World in April. This will be my first trip with NP, and I've heard nothing but great things about past trips, so you can imagine my anticipation. I am planning to perform with three of our vocal ensembles: Concert Choir, Jazz Choir, and Chorale, which is an ensemble formed from the combined membership of Women's and Men's Choirs. I've included in our repertoire this year songs that represent many world languages and cultures. I feel so strongly that students should come to realize the role that music plays beyond that of our own popular culture. By studying and performing these pieces, they will have the opportunity to experience it firsthand.

Student participation in vocal music is very high this year, and I plan to take advantage of it by placing a strong emphasis on developing not just good singers, but also thoughtful musicians. I often hear students say "but we just want to sing", and that's GREAT! It is my goal that in addition to singing, they understand the nuts and bolts of music and singing so that they can take the knowledge and skills with them throughout their lives. We'll be spending much of the first month of school learning vocal, musical and choral concepts to prepare for a year of rehearsal. I hope you will support me in this goal!

As always, I very much look forward to making music with your children this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

SUSAN KIRKLAND
HS Vocal & Choral Music

ITHACAPPELLA STARTS A FALL TOUR TO ROCK NEW PROVIDENCE

Ithacappella, Ithaca College's premier a cappella group, will be starting its fall tour on October 19th. First stop: New Providence, NJ. They will be conducting a workshop at New Providence High School, working with high school vocalists on technique, performance, and overall showmanship. Later that evening, you can expect to find Ithacappella performing at Centennial Park at 6:30pm. In performance will be held indoors at Lincoln Gym (next to Centennial Park).

You can expect Ithacappella to perform music from such artists as: Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Coldplay, Gnarl Barkley, Toy Story, John Mellencamp, and even some men's choral pieces. This is what makes Ithacappella unique: their wide variety of musical genres. Greg Harris, the conductor of the group this year, describes an Ithacappella performance as: "Great music, mixed with the energy from the blue-blazer laden guys on stage and the crowd combined, topped off with a little humor, give you an hour and a half of high quality a cappella entertainment."

Ithacappella consists of 18 students that perform various styles of music, from contemporary pop to traditional choral, frequently both on and off campus. They were ranked the #1 men's a cappella group on the east coast last year, at the International Competition for Collegiate Competition. Previous tour locations have included: New Orleans, Boston, Virginia, and Connecticut. **Christopher Lee**, a recent graduate of NPHS '06, is a freshman at Ithaca College and performs with the group as a Tenor I.

For additional information: <http://www.ithacappella.com>
Contact: AJMIZES@gmail.com
Phone: (925) 548- 3241



VOCAL MUSIC AT AWR AND SB SCHOOLS

I'm looking forward to my eighth year in New Providence. I love this job! This year I will teach Pre-K through grade 3 at Allen W. Roberts School as well as grades Pre-K, LLDI and 2 at Salt Brook School.

Three years ago, with help from the Salt Brook PTA I received a grant called "Drum Circles!" from the Junior League of Summit. This project serves to create a sense of community within the 3rd grade music class. I chose 3rd grade initially because the children are moments away from ensemble playing in 4th grade. A large percentage of our students begin band or orchestra instruments and I want to instill in them the importance of eye contact, timing, improvisation, dynamics and JOY in ensemble music.

This year marks the first year I will start "Drum Circles" at Allen W. Roberts. I'm excited to work with this energetic group! Wait until that Vocal concert in May...you'll be amazed at what we've learned.

The second graders in both schools are learning to read music in our music books and are still enjoying Sing Along class weekly. We have been working on audiation (hearing the song inside your head) and following melodic direction.

Allen W. Robert's first grade classes are doing fantastically with the full school day and enjoying music twice a week. We have been working on chants, songs and instrument play.

Pre-K and LLDI are working with "Music Together" songs. I've been teaching this program outside of school for over a year. "Music Together" is a pre-school music program that involves music of many cultures, as well as lots of fun instrument play. In fact, just last week I added in a "PLAY ALONG" where the children get to play along with a recording using a big box of classroom percussion instruments. They are loving every minute!

As always, my students will spend their music time singing and playing music from our country as well as many other cultures. We are singers, movers, readers, dancers, players and who knows what else we will be?

JENNIFER STARR
AWR/SB Primary Vocal Music Teacher

(Miss Starr performs with a percussion group called Marafanyi Percussion. They performed at the K-12 International Night at the NPHS last year)

SUSAN IATESTA NJMEA MASTER MUSIC TEACHER

When I first met Susan Iatesta I sensed a strength of personality, a depth of knowledge, and a love for children that is the mark of a master teacher. Since then I have come to know Susan as the ultimate professional. What impresses me most is her refusal to rest on her laurels. After 33 years of teaching she still asks, "How can I do this even better?"

Susan grew up in northwestern Pennsylvania and attended Wittenburg University in Springfield, Ohio. She graduated in 1972 with a B.M.E. in Music Education. The following year she began her fruitful tenure in New Providence. Through the years she has taught general and vocal music, recorder classes, elementary level band, and middle school level band at Salt Brook, Allen W. Roberts, Lincoln, and Hillview Schools. In the last fifteen years she has focused on the area in which she has become a true expert - elementary band. After only a few months of study her fourth graders play heavy, complicated, full-sized instruments as a unified ensemble. Her 5/6 bands consistently play with great attention to rhythmic precision, accurate intonation and dynamic variation. Her Jazz Bands always play with style and energy. Furthermore, Sue's support of her colleagues is unmatched.

Last year I felt that it was high time to seek recognition for such a treasured teacher. With the help of the Performing Arts faculty, New Providence administrators, and parents and students, I nominated Sue for the NJ Music Education Association's highest teaching honor - Master Music Teacher. In March, she was named a finalist for the statewide award. (Incidentally, she would soon be named New Providence Teacher Of The Year as well.) The selection committee, comprised of retired master music teachers, visited Salt Brook School to observe Sue teach in April. Naturally, they were amazed. Among their many observations:

- The 5/6 Band sounded "at least two years older" than they were.
- There was great variety in the musical selections studied.
- The very large percussion section played with unusual musicality.

Earlier this month Sue was notified that she indeed has been named NJMEA Master Music Teacher for 2006-2007. She will be recognized at the state music education convention in February. We could not be prouder of her! Congratulations to Sue on receiving this prestigious and richly deserved honor. She is an inspiration to us all.

KENNETH HESS
Director of Vocal Music, AWR

**SAVE THE DATES FOR
WINTER CONCERTS**

AWR – DECEMBER 12 (SNOW DATE DECEMBER 18)

SB – DECEMBER 13 (SNOW DATE DECEMBER 19)

NPMS – DECEMBER 6 (SNOW DATE DECEMBER 7)

NPMS – DECEMBER 20 (SNOW DATE DECEMBER 21)



**WELCOME NEW MUSIC FACULTY TO THE NEW
PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT!**

CELESTE DE NICUOLO

It is with pleasure that I join the New Providence School District this year as the Band Teacher at Allen W. Roberts Elementary. Prior to this position, I was awarded a Master's of Music degree in Music Education at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. A native of New Jersey, I completed the degree in June 2006 after earning a Bachelor's of Music degree in Music Education at The College of New Jersey in 2004.

Throughout my studies at The College of New Jersey and the University of Cincinnati, I have had the opportunity to gain experience in the art of teaching and music making. These experiences included a Graduate Teaching Assistantship where I taught Woodwind Methods, Student Teaching in West-Windsor Plainsboro, Marching Band Drill Instruction, and performance opportunities on the oboe in large and small ensembles. I consider myself a life-long learner, and look forward to continual growth in both teaching and music.

**NATHAN FISHER, GUITAR EXPERT TO
PERFORM AND TEACH NP STUDENTS**

Today, guitar is one of the most popular instruments in the world of music, and exposure of classical guitar to our kids will be a unique and enriching experience. For this purpose, we have sought out a popular classical guitarist, Nathan Fischer, who just happens to be passing through our area on a concert tour this fall. We have been in touch

with his management and he has agreed to take time to perform for our community because he is passionate about exposing kids to the arts.

The NP Music Boosters has committed to bringing Nathan Fischer in for a recital and to conduct an educational workshop (Masterclass) with our students in early November. The performance will occur during the 2nd period music classes and the Masterclass will be held after school. All students interested in performing in the Masterclass should see Mrs. Seamster as soon as possible

As a performer and advocate for the arts, Nathan Fischer balances his career as a performer, teacher, and the Executive Director of the International Guitar Institute (IGI). The IGI is a 501 (c) 3, non-profit organization committed to the advancement of the guitar in the world of music. As a program of the IGI, the Alexandria Guitar Festival of Virginia has been in operation for five years, and was described as "guitar heaven" by the *Mount Vernon Gazette*. Nathan Fischer has a Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music in Guitar Performance and Literature. In 2004, he received the Andrés Segovia Award for Musical Accomplishment and Human Endeavor from ESM. Currently, he is on faculty with the State University of New York in Fredonia where he teaches guitar, history and literature of guitar, guitar pedagogy, and music theory. In 2006-2007, Nathan will be an Artist in Residence at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, and is currently creating the Las Vegas Guitar Festival. His first recording *Images* was released in 2000 and he is currently planning the release of *The Complete Works of Joaquín Turina* for 2008.

CHERYL SEAMSTER
Director of Strings Program, NPMS and NPMS

