

Dear Pineland families,

Welcome to another year of musical wonders!



After being a part of Snow Pond Community Music School for three years, we realized that it would be more economical to go back to simply renting space. The teachers and PSS board members spent much time and effort discussing and researching to find the best situation for all! One meeting lasted almost until midnight! I am full of gratitude to the parents on the board, who, in spite of being extremely busy, are willing to spend the time looking out for all families of Pineland Suzuki School! After much deliberation, the board has decided to continue holding group classes at Snow Pond this year.

Some good changes that we believe will give Pineland Suzuki School a viable future have come about because of our relationship with Snow Pond. Pineland will start collecting private lesson tuition as well as group class tuition. Scholarships will continue to provide needed help for families and we will be able to offer salaries for director and accountant.

Last year's Benefit Concert was great fun, with lovely morning bird songs and sharks and cockroaches on Old MacDonald's farm, among many other delights! Capital Strings students played the solo part of Vivaldi's *Spring* and Vivace Orchestra students absolutely loved playing the orchestra parts. It has become a tradition in PSS to play Vivaldi's Four Seasons about every 5 years, so that the students who play the orchestra parts can anticipate playing the wonderful virtuosic solo parts years later! Another huge accomplishment was Camille Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* performed by Snow Pond Youth Symphony and wonderful student pianists from near and far. Unfortunately, we had to have two concerts and not all of you heard that signature piece played by advanced students. So, in 2018, we will go back to Messalonskee HS with everyone all together again for PSS 18<sup>th</sup> annual Benefit Concert, "Peace".

Pineland Suzuki students have been doing some amazing things! Congratulations to All State High School Orchestra musicians: Luke Bartol, Gwinna Remillard, Anna Schaab, Cassidy Shink! Congratulations to graduating seniors Anna Schaab, Anna Peterson and Gabe Gervais! PSS alumna Emma Cifrino spent a year in Maine, in between gaining her masters and starting on her doctorate in viola! It was wonderful to teach with her! Alex Frost, Joshua Rosenthal and Owen Kennedy were accepted into the Maine Acoustic Festival this past spring. Two 12-year old students win the "eager beaver award": Lily Thompson, for attending four music camps totaling 6 weeks this summer! Owen Kennedy, for fiddling all over and putting together his third (mostly) solo concert! Please let us know your musical adventures and honors!

PSS students participated in several summer camps: NESI, New England Music Camp, ASTA Strings Camp in Winthrop, Kneisel Hall, Envision Chamber Music at Bay Chamber in Rockport and Maine Fiddle Camps. In a fun and intense summer music camp experience, students progress much more than they do during the entire academic year! They will bring back more enthusiasm, and mature musicality which inspires all students in group classes!!!!

Wherever we are, whoever the children play with and for, they inspire and delight! Keep up the great work, everybody!!!  
Betsy Kobayashi