Dear DUSS families,

It is with great pride in our school that I write this letter.

Solo auditions for both Intermediate 2 and Youth Symphony were held in February. It was amazing to see the number of well-prepared soloists in the competitions. There were many different teachers represented and there was much fine playing. I was struck by the realization that any of the auditioning students could successfully play their concerto with their orchestra.

In addition to the talent and skill the students displayed, more importantly they showed support for one another. From a young boy auditioning for Intermediate 2 sincerely wishing that all the students auditioning would have as much fun as he would, to the older students encouraging each other as they practice in the rooms and wait in the hallway for their turn to play.

These relationships are what our school is all about. We are not only about the performances and final product, but about helping each other achieve our best and supporting each other through everything. As teachers, we are teaching life lessons in addition to music lessons. We are all learning and growing and to have such a wonderful group of students, parents and friends who offer never ending support to their children, teachers and to DUSS is the greatest gift of all. It is truly a family and I am so grateful to be a part of it.

Ms. Swisher

Well, here’s your problem... you’ve got a hemi-semi-demi quaver jam.

CONCERT DATES
2015-2016
AUGUST 25 (SAT)
OCTOBER 11 (SUN)
DECEMBER 6 (SUN)
MARCH 13 (SUN)
MAY 1 (SUN)
ALL CONCERTS ARE IN BALDWIN AUDITORIUM
On November 9th, students of Stephanie Swisher had a solo recital with Elizabeth and Julia Boltz, Lylan Bui, Hannah Ferencik, Sophie and Michael Hansen, Freddie Huang, Julia Lopez, Oskar and Elena Schulmeister-Antona, Crete Taft, Alex Shen, Amelia and Aviana Yun, and Jeffrey Zhu.

The Cantella Quartet (Ella Han, Violet Huang, Elena Schulmeister-Antona and Ben Maxwell) was chosen as one of the 8 quartets to participate in the 2015 USC Chamber Day and Competition with the Parker Quartet out of a total of 16 quartets from North and South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Tennessee. They will play the Mendelssohn String Quartet No 6 in F Minor, Op. 80, Allegro for the competition on March 21. Ms Swisher coaches the group.

Sanaa Lucas successfully auditioned and will be attending the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in the Fall. She will enter as a 9th grade student and will study viola with Professor Sheila Browne. Sanaa was also selected to perform in the Triangle Youth Philharmonic Honors Recital on Feb. 14th 2015. Congratulations to Sanaa for all of your hard work!

Theresa Webber participated in ECU’s ‘Four Seasons’ Next Generation on the Road Master class program in Raleigh the weekend of February 7-8, 2015.

Caroline Branan, first year Youth Symphony student, has composed the violin part for the song “Pictures of Matchstick Men” from the album Key Lime Pie by Camper Van Beethoven. She is performing with her father, Andrew Branan, on guitar, and two other band members at The Whistle in the evening in Hillsborough, April 4, 2015.

Stephen White, was accepted into the Southeast Honors String Festival held at UNCG in January. He is a sophomore this year, playing cello, under the teaching of Robbie Link and is in the DUSS Youth Orchestra.

Jayon Felizarta, student of Mrs. Kitchen, made the finals of the Winston-Salem Peter Perret Youth Talent Competition. Jayon was invited by conductor Peter Perrett to solo at the Greensboro Symphony’s Children’s Concert on March 8.

Hyun Jae Lim, from South Korea, won 5th prize, and the special prize for the “Best performance of a Bach Sonata” at the 2015 inaugural Singapore International Violin Competition. She was in the Orchestra for 2 years where she soloed and studied with Mrs Kitchen.

Nathan Chen, Catherine Cho, Anastasia Freedman, Ella Han, Violet Huang, Deborah Kim, Moonsu Kim, Allison Lai, Joshua Lai, Nathaniel Lai, Matt Laird, Rachel Lloyd, Ben Maxwell, Connor Rogerson, Justin Takamiya, James Oh, Daniel Yu, Daniel Bae, Caroline Noell, Nathan Xiao and Youngwoo Yu played in the NCMEA 2015 Eastern Regional Symphony Orchestra concert on February 22.

On Valentine’s Day weekend, Durham Academy Upper School’s Nikki Inocencio and Sam Kim played violin in the pit orchestra for the production of “Thoroughly Modern Millie.” Performances were held February 12 to 14 at Durham Academy’s Kenan Auditorium.

Congratulations to Deborah Kim, a sophomore at Green Hope High School in Cary, who was a winner in the 2015 American Protege International String Competition. She will perform Praeludium and Allegro by Fritz Kreisler at Carnegie Hall in New York City on July 3, 2015.

Julia Gao, a sophomore at East Chapel Hill High School, won International Concerto Competition at American Fine Arts Festival for her performance of Saint Saens’ Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, and performed at Carnegie Hall on February 14th.

David Takamiya performed Bass Clarinet with the NC Central District Honors Band during the weekend of Jan. 30. Justin Takamiya performed Clarinet with NC Eastern Regional Orchestra during the weekend of Feb. 2. They enjoy playing in DUSS Youth Orchestra.

Fiddling Around continues on page 4.
NEW STUDY CONCLUDES THAT MUSIC LESSONS SPUR EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL GROWTH IN CHILDREN

Parents who have patiently sat through countless music recitals and questioned their sanity at encouraging all those trumpet or violin lessons need do so no longer. Even ear-splitting dissonance has an upside. Music training not only helps children develop fine motor skills, but aids emotional and behavioral maturation as well, according to a new study, one of the largest to investigate the effects of playing an instrument on brain development.

Using a database produced by the National Institutes of Health Magnetic Resonance (MRI) Study of Normal Brain Development, researchers at the University of Vermont College of Medicine analyzed the brain scans of 232 healthy children ages six to 18 specifically looking at brain development in children who play a musical instrument.

“What we found was the more a child trained on an instrument,” said James Hudziak, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Vermont and director of the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, “it accelerated cortical organization in attention skill, anxiety management and emotional control. What I was surprised by was the emotional regulatory regions. Everyone in our culture knows if I lift 5-pound, 10-pound, 15-pound weights, my biceps will get bigger. The same is true for the brain. We shouldn’t be surprised we can train the brain.”

Inspired by his own research, and having never learned to play an instrument, the 56-year-old Hudziak decided to take viola lessons last year. “I had this passion for health promotion in children, it seemed silly not to do it myself,” he said. Though music isn’t his only health-related extracurricular activity, Hudziak also engages in regular exercise and meditation, he believes the viola lessons contribute to his overall wellness. They have not, however, contributed much to his overall playing ability, at least not yet. The sanguine psychiatrist had just one word for his viola skills: “Horrible.”

Editor’s Note: Maybe it works only in children. Adapted from the Washington Post Speaking of Science by AE Nutt Jan 7, 2015

I HAVE A DREAM

In art class, I made a pastel drawing that showed that my dream was based on Martin Luther’s “I Have a Dream” speech. In my picture, I had the audience facing towards the front, in seats made for them. Behind the curtain on the right stands a videographer, recording me live. On the stage, I stand, playing a solo piece on my violin. In the corner of my drawing, I wrote these words: To be a professional violinist.” This is something I might want to become later in my life. I believe that anyone can become this, as long as they work hard with patience and determination. With thanks to my wonderful teachers, Mrs. Kitchen, and my first private teacher, Mrs. Brooks, who gave me a great start.

Nicholas Woodrum
DUSS students Elena Schulmeister-Antona, Richard Gao, Aaron Yun, Ramya Krishna and Jane Parris performed in the string section of the Waltz Orchestra for the Duke Wind Symphony Viennese Ball. Running since 1974, the ball is the longest-running student-led event of its kind in the country. The Ball, which is a fundraiser for the Wind Symphony, features a Polka Band and a Waltz Orchestra led by students. The 41st Annual Viennese Ball was held February 14, 2015 at the Freeman Center.

Nicole Dunkak played the Concerto in A minor for Two Violins, 1st, 2nd and 3rd movements, by A. Vivaldi with fellow Durham School of the Arts (DSA) student Gabe Mixon for the DSA Vivaldi Concert in October 2014. They were accompanied by the DSA String Orchestra and the DSA Chamber Orchestra. Nicole and Gabe played the 3rd movement in a November recital for the students of Karen Galvin and Jennifer Taylor with piano accompaniment by Emily Russ. Nicole and Gabe played the 1st movement for the DSA Winter Assembly. Nicole also was 1st violin for the DSA String Orchestra Fall Concert in December.

The DPS Honors Strings Concert is March 13th at Baldwin. The following DUSS students have been invited to play in the DPS High School honors strings orchestra: Lucas Mock, Ethan Mock, Ben Maxwell, Connor Rogerson, Nathan Barnacki, and Cailyn Clark. Mauri Bardales is concertmaster. Ben Maxwell is principal cello. The following have been invited to play in the DPS Middle School honors strings orchestra: Charlotte Maxwell, Katrina Schlekat, Sophia Johnston, and Zachary McCarthy. Charlotte Maxwell is concertmaster.

Enoch Kuan and Alexander Berghausen will present a recital at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Durham on March 21st.

Violin for Sale

German violin for sale
Made by A. Schroetter, Rittenwald/Bayern, it has new strings and a new bridge fitted by Billie Feather at High Strung violins in Durham. Please call us for an appointment to see this lovely violin. Comes with bow and case. 919-644-1928 or 919-370-0194 ask for Larry or Karen