



Musical Notes

Volume 2, Issue 11

Mt. Vernon Music Boosters

May 2017

Calendar

- **Friday–Saturday:** Spring Sing, 6:30 p.m. (see page 2)
- **May 19–20:** Extravaganza, 7 p.m.
- **May 24:** Marching band practice, 6–9 p.m.
- **May 26:** Graduation, 7:30 p.m.
- **May 31–June 2, June 5–9:** Band Camp #1

Klinestiver places 2nd in scholarship competition

On April 7, senior Leah Klinestiver captured second place in the instrumental category of the George and Icy Vaughn Performing Arts Scholarship competition.

Senior Felicity Kratky, a member of Mt. Vernon's Center Stage choir, placed second in the vocal category.

Leah performed a piece by Georges Barre, "Nocturne."

For placing second, both she and Felicity received \$3,500 scholarships.

"I am very proud of her and look forward to seeing her continue music in any aspect beyond high school," Mr. Ellinger said.

To be in the finals, both Leah and Felicity had to survive school-level auditions March 8. Two students from each high school in Hancock County competed in the finals at the H.J. Ricks Centre for the Arts in Greenfield.



The Meijer in McCordsville is open for business! And the pep and marching bands were there to perform during the grand-opening festivities. The pep band entertained during an open house Monday evening, May 1. Members of the marching band wound their way past cards, flowers, and baby items Tuesday morning, May 2, to play "Uptown Funk" and the school fight song for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



2017 Extravaganza has Broadway theme

Extravaganza is almost as old as the Mt. Vernon Community School Corp. and, like the schools, is still going strong.

First performed in 1964—the year after Mt. Vernon's formation—the Extravaganza concert was the brainchild of the high school's first band director, Stan Ricks. Extravaganza has been a standard since then, being performed each year though the tenure of eight band directors. (Mr. Ellinger is MVHS's eighth director.)

Each year, the band's seniors choose the theme and the song selections. This year's theme is "Broadway." Each ensemble will also perform one contest piece, and the concert will end with a traditional performance of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The show—at 7 p.m. May 19 and 20 in the auditorium—will also include the jazz band both nights, and the 8th-grade band on Friday only.

A slide-show video of the NYC trip will be shown (but the Carnegie Hall band won't perform, due to time constraints). Mr.

Ellinger will recognize seniors and pass out various awards.

Admission is \$5 per person, \$20 per immediate family of four or more.

Remembering Tristan Carson

Almost a year ago, the band lost one of its own: Tristan Carson, a senior who died of natural causes the day before graduation. He had played percussion in the marching and concert bands.

The band, with the blessing of Tristan's parents, will be awarding a \$500 scholarship in his name on the second night of Extravaganza. According to Kyra Davis, booster president, the scholarship will be given to a student who plans to participate in some type of college program or course of study in music that Mr. Ellinger, other staff members, and the booster executive board have identified as having a compassionate, caring, and helping personality.



Alumni association forming

The Music Boosters are forming an alumni association for MVHS graduates who participated in the band program. If you are a band alumnus (or know of anyone who is), consider coming to the inaugural Alumni Night the second night of Extravaganza.

Social time for alumni begins at 6 p.m. in the lobby outside the auditorium. The Boosters also need some help identifying band members in photos dating back to the school's very first year.

Alumni will also have a chance to join the MVHS Band Alumni Association at a special charter member rate of \$20, which includes a lifetime membership, admission to Extravaganza, and a special alumni reception. If you have any questions, please contact [Beth Smith](#).



Briefs

Spring Sing to focus on iconic music, singers

Like the band program, the MVHS choir program puts on a traditional end-of-the-year performance.

This **Friday** and **Saturday**, the Spring Sing will feature all of the school's choirs: Premier, Expressions, Center Stage, and Locked Out. The show starts at **6:30 p.m.** in the school auditorium. Admission is \$5 per person, \$20 per family of four or more.

This year's theme is "Iconic," featuring iconic music and musicians. Miss Anderson, choir director, said the concerts will include music by Aerosmith, Madonna, ABBA, Tina Turner, and others.

First marching practice lets freshmen mingle

On **May 24**, incoming freshmen will have a chance to meet with older marching band members at the first practice of the season.

"We will be doing a bit of a 'meet and greet' with the new students, some fun group activities, and learning the basics of how we stand and march," Mr. Ellinger said, noting that it's more of an introduction to the marching season so the students can hit the ground running with Band Camp #1 May 31.

The practice starts at **6 p.m.** in the cafeteria and ends at **9 p.m.**

ISO seeks applicants for youth orchestra

The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO) is a youth program of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO). The MYO seeks to develop life skills through music rehearsal and performance. It will accept applications for new members through **May 31**. Visit this [site](#) for more details.

Band earns 'All-Music Award' again

For the second year straight, the MVHS band program was awarded an ISSMA All-Music Award for its achievements during the 2016-17 school year.

Mt. Vernon was one of 73 high-school band programs in Indiana to earn the honor this year (out of 736). MVHS also earned it for the 2006-07, 2012-13, and 2015-16 school years.

To receive this award, MVHS had to earn gold ratings at the following three ISSMA events:

♦ **A marching band event:** The Band of Marauders received a



gold rating at the Scholastic Class A preliminaries Oct. 8, which enabled it to move to the final competition Oct. 22.

♦ **Jazz Festival:** The jazz band received a gold rating in Group II in March.

♦ **Organizational Festival:** The Wind Ensemble recently re-

ceived a gold rating with distinction in Group I. The Symphonic Band also received a gold rating in Group III.

MVHS also had to have at least one soloist and one ensemble advance to the ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble contest Feb. 25. Five ensembles and 17 soloists from MVHS qualified for the state finals by earning gold ratings in Group I at the district ISSMA competition Feb. 4.

The band will not receive the banner for the award until June. The one pictured here is from last year.

Band members reach state with academic team

Band members made up three-quarters of an MVHS academic team that placed 4th at state finals over the weekend at Purdue University.



Freshman **Sydney Godwin**, junior **Matthew Rollo**, sophomore **Joan Lee**, and senior **Gavin Stamper** made up Mt. Vernon's Fine Arts Academic Team. Sydney, Matthew, and Gavin are all band members; Joan is in choir.

The team is part of the Academ-

ic Super Bowl, a program run by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). Jennifer Sherbak, an English teacher at MVHS, serves as advisor.

Mrs. Sherbak explained that

each year, IASP chooses a topic for students to research. (This year's topic was the French Revolution.) At competitions, they answer questions as a team.

Each round at competitions is dedicated to a specific subject area: Science, Fine Arts, Math, English, and Social Studies. In the Fine Arts round, half of the questions are about visual art; the other half are about music.

'Dine to Donate' at Detour Grille May 15

The Music Boosters hope people will celebrate Mother's Day *again* a day later to help raise funds for the band.

[Detour American Grille & Bar](#), 10158 Brooks School Road (at Brooks School and Fall Creek roads) in Fishers, will host a "Dine to Donate" for the Band of Marauders this coming **Monday** from **5-8 p.m.**

You do *not* have to present a flyer. You don't even have to mention the band. All you have to do is show up and eat (or order carryout) between 5 and 8 p.m. The band gets to keep 15 percent of all sales for the night.

This "first" fundraiser for the new marching season will go toward the general fund.

More Briefs

New restaurant cards feature 12 stores

As of June 1, the pink 2016 restaurant cards expire. But never fear: The 2017 cards are now available and are better than ever!

You can use the new cards at 12 area restaurants. The six from the pink card—The Grill 2, Subway, and Kinsey's Italian Café in McCordsville; Lincoln Square and El 5 de Mayo in Fortville; and Montana Mike's in Greenfield—all appear on the new card, as do Los Maguelles and Mozzi's Pizza in Fortville; O'Charley's and Applebee's in Greenfield; and Applebee's and Lord Ashley's on Pendleton Pike in Lawrence.

Like in years past, the restaurant cards will be \$10 each. New this year, the first three cards sold will go toward the general fund; after that, each card equals \$10 straight to the seller's band account.

New drum majors announced

Junior Emma Flick will continue in her role as senior drum major, while sophomore T.J. Bass will take over as assistant drum major this fall.