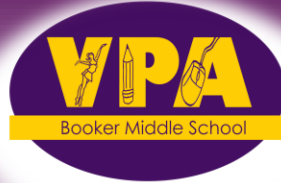


F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 7

Booker Middle School VPA Newsletter

2017: A Year of Creation!



We Keep Going Strong!

The word is out and we have gotten some fantastic feedback on our new newsletter format, please keep it coming! We are thrilled to tell you what we have been up to and what is on the horizon. The biggest project we are working on is our fundraiser happening March 24th. Stay tuned for more details, and if you would like to help, feel free to email BookerMiddleVPA@gmail.com. We would love to have your support!

Coming up in February

PROGRAM AUDITIONS

Saturday February 4th
9:00 AM @ Booker Middle School

GUITAR AND ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Thursday February 16th
7:00 PM @ Booker Middle School

Save the Date!

VPA GALA
Friday March 24th

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

The Francis Banquet Hall

1262 N Palm Ave.

Sarasota, FL 34236



VPA's Student of the Month Is... Ben Strom

7th grader Ben Strom participates in the jazz and orchestra disciplines where he plays the piano and the double bass. No newbie to these instruments, he has been playing double bass since he was 9 and the piano since he was only 3 years old!

Ben said he likes to express himself in music and enjoys both classical and jazz, though his favorite go-to song to perform is a jazz piece by composer Dave Brubeck, "Take Five." In his classes, Ben is currently working on MPA's (musical performance assessments), where he (and his fellow orchestra and ensemble members) will be judged on pieces they are currently working on. When he isn't performing he enjoys sailboat racing,

which he has been participating in since he was 5 years old.

Mr. Nielson says, "It is a privilege for me to watch Ben mature as an artist and as a person. Look out jazz world... here he comes!" Mrs. Heinz exclaimed, "He is the spirit of the bass section. He twirls and whirls his bass on stage and his enthusiasm is contagious!"

For all those kids thinking about learning to play an instrument, Ben says, "Most people give up quickly. I didn't like playing piano till 3 years after I started playing." And clearly, sticking to it has paid off with not only the piano, but the bass as well. Just last month Ben represented our school at All State Orchestra playing bass. Way to go, Ben!



Ben's Artist Pick:

Jazz Pianist and Composer Dave Brubeck (1920-2012)

Dave Brubeck is considered to be one of the foremost exponents of cool jazz. He wrote a number of jazz standards, including "In Your Own Sweet Way" and "The Duke". Brubeck's style ranged from refined to bombastic, reflecting his mother's attempts at classical training and his improvisational skills. His music is known for employing unusual time signatures, and superimposing contrasting rhythms, meters, and tonalities.

Source: Wikipedia.com

Starting 2017 Off With A Bang

There have been an abundance of projects and activities in which our students and our teachers have been involved!!

Winter Dance Concert

The concert entitled "Let Us Rise" was performed at the Booker High School Performing Arts Center. It was a fantastic journey through many different styles of dance including Jazz, Ballet, Modern, and West African. Guest choreographer Mia M. Redding created a dynamic and moving piece choreographed in the West African style entitled "Tena." This partnership was sponsored by the US Department of Education through the Project Prevent (P2) Program and in partnership with the Sarasota Against Violence (SAVE) Project. The rest of the program was choreographed by our own Mr. Batista, and all of it was performed by our incredibly talented students. Thanks for a fabulous evening!

Magnet Night

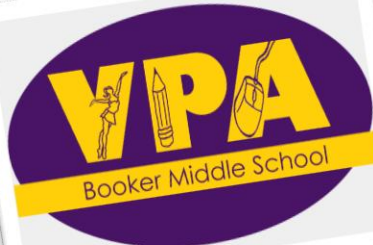
We were thrilled to welcome prospective new students and their parents to Magnet Night. It is such a thrill to see people's enthusiasm for our VPA program. Can't wait to see you at the auditions!

Dragonfly Café

Dragonfly Café took place under the light of the full moon on Thursday, January 12. It was a magical evening that encompassed the wonder of words and the wonder of nature when a screech owl swooped down out of the oak tree as if to punctuate the end of the performance. Special thanks to Mrs. Parker for stepping up to share her poem.

Thanks also to Mrs. Piney for joining us. We also had a return visit from Mr. Havener and his poets from Sarasota High.

We had a special surprise guest, Reggie Scott Young, the poet-in-residence- from New College. Thank you, Mr. Young, for making our Dragonfly Café your first stop in Sarasota. We look forward to the opportunity to work with Mr. Young next semester.



...but wait... there's more!

All State Orchestra

On January 14th, 7th grader Ben Strom participated in All State Orchestra playing the double bass. He did Booker Middle School proud. Congrats on qualifying, Ben!



Southwest Florida Festival in Port Charlotte

Also on January 14th, our Jazz Ensemble performed at the Port Charlotte Big Band and Jazz Festival. Several professional orchestras and bands played as well as one high school, but we were the only middle school in attendance. Check out the video of our performance on the VPA website!

<http://bookermiddleschoolvpa.weebly.com/videos.html>

All State Chorus

Another exciting event that took place on the 14th at the Straz Center in Tampa was the All State Choir. We had 4 students who participated in a rigorous multi-audition process in order to qualify to participate.



Florida Studio Theatre's WRITE A PLAY Program

This month our drama students will participate in the Write A Play Program in conjunction with FST where they will write their very own plays. In selecting winners, FST looks for plays with an imaginative plot and character, a strong sense of rhythm in the dialogue, innate wisdom, and diverse themes. Good luck students!



...and some more...

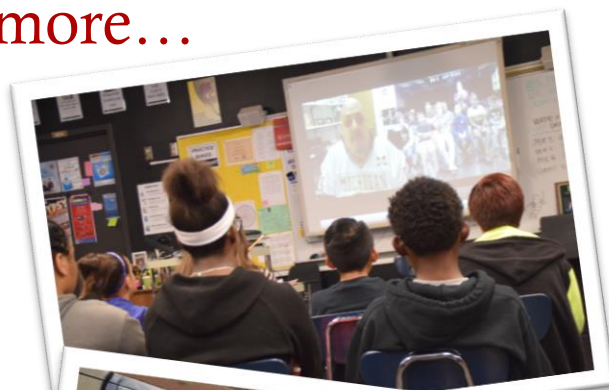
SAVE Grant Update

Sarasota Against ViolencE (SAVE) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the Project Prevent (P2). Funds to be provided by this additional P2 grant will be integrated with the existing VPA programs, but will supplement those activities to provide student-focused activities which align with P2 goals in general and with specific *SAVE* program goals.

This month our staff and students participated in many activities in association with this grant

Drama Students: Had several skype sessions with playwright José Casas who wrote “and then he looked at me,” the play that kicked off the grant.

Art Students: Continued to work with artist Richie Brasil on a mural inspired by the P2 program goals.



Dance Students: Performed an African dance piece entitled “Tena” inspired by the P2 program goals which was choreographed by guest artist Mia Redding in the Winter Dance Concert.

Orchestra, Chorus, and Band Students: Collaborated on composing a piece with an anti-bullying message. They wrote the lyrics, assisted with orchestrations, and participated in the recording.



...and even more!!!

Submissions to *PoetryLife* Poetry Contest

Ms. Fox's students are so excited to participate in the *PoetryLife* poetry contest for 2017. These poems will be submitted and then judged by MFA students at Vanderbilt University. We have had over 30 winners in the past 4 years of this competition! Stay tuned to hear if BMS will be among the winners this year.

Social Media Update

We are so excited to share our new social media presence with you! Follow us for updates and much more. Make sure you share all your photos and stories with us. We want to hear from you!

Facebook: Booker Middle School VPA

Instagram: BookerMiddleVPA

Twitter: BookerMiddleVPA

VPA Fundraiser Event CALLING ALL PARENTS

Our yearly fundraiser is happening March 24th and we need your help! More announcements about the details of the event will be made soon, but until then, we would love for you to get involved. Please contact Savannah Holds, Arts Coordinator at bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com if you are interested in lending a hand to fundraise for our fantastic program and (most importantly) our wonderful kids.



Congratulations, Kaitlyn!

Congratulations to eighth grader Kaitlyn Freeman for having her piece selected from thousands of entries for the Embracing Our Differences Exhibition this year. Well done, Kaitlyn!



Thank you parents, partners, donors, and volunteers!!!

Rebecca Lockwood
Nereida Ponce
Felicia Williams
Curt Tellbuecher
Deana Murillo
Kellie Menke
Adecia Johnson
Pat Tellebuecher
Rina Hernandez
Jenn Perez
Jennifer Mitchell
Maria Velasquez
Andrea Justimiano
Gordon Gregory
Tiffany Profita
Colleen-Jim Duffy
Beth Byron-Reasoner
April Flakne
Michelle Barton
Shannon Kraska Cooper
Nancy Milholland
Ms. Lodhi
Mrs. Alvis
Mrs. Hernandez-Ron
Mohamed DaCosta



Dr. Shelley and Booker High School, thank you for generous use of your beautiful facilities and resources!

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!!!!

Would YOU like to get the word out, AND support children's arts education? Place an advertisement in the Booker Middle VPA Newsletter! For more information, email bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com!

LOOKING AHEAD

VPA Public Events/Performances 2016-2017

October:

- 13 Fall Chorus Concert (7:00)
- 17-21 SAVE Grant Performances (in school)
- 18 Fall Band Concert (7:00)
- 20 Dragonfly Café (6:30) Rm. 130
- 27 Fall Orchestra Concert (7:00)

November:

- 5 Inspire Sarasota
- 10 Drama Showcase (7:00) (amphitheater)
- 11 Drama Showcase (7:00)

December:

- 8 Joint Winter Music Concert (7:00)
- 15 Art/Multimedia/Poetry Show (6:00)
(Gallery)

January:

- 7 Winter Dance Concert (7:00, at Booker High)
- 11 Magnet Night
- 12 Dragonfly Café (6:30) Rm. 130

February:

- 4 External Auditions
- 16 Guitar & Orchestra Concert
- 25 Musical Rehearsal in café 9-4

March:

- 3 Musical (Booker High 7:00)
- 4 Musical (Booker High 2:00 and 7:00)
- 9 Spring Band Concert (7:00)
- 23 Dragonfly Café (6:30) Rm. 130
- 24 VPA Gala/Fundraiser
- 30 Spring Chorus Concert (7:00)
And Art/Multimedia Show (6:00)

April:

- 6 Spring Drama Showcase (7:00)
(amphitheater)
- 7 Spring Drama Showcase (7:00)
- 18 Instrumental Recital (Band) (7:00)
- 28 Dragonfly Café Away (6:30) Lido Beach

May:

- 13 Spring Dance Concert (7:00 at Booker High)
- 23 Spring Joint Music Concert (7:00)
- 25 Art/Multimedia Show (6:00)
And Dragonfly Café Swan Song (6:30)
- 30 Musical Theatre Cabaret (7:00) (RM 407)

June:

- 1 Dance Concert, Informal (7:00)

For more information on Booker Middle School VPA activities or admissions contact VPA Coordinator Savannah Holds at bookermiddlevpa@gmail.com.