



Twinkling The Ivories

January 2009

“All children are born with great potential.”

Board of Directors

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Casino:
Shauna Bevan-Stewart



What Would You Do with \$70,000?

Every two years, ESPS gets a cheque for about **\$70,000.00** to use in almost any way we can imagine. We can send our teachers to conferences so they can come home excited, motivated, and full of new information. We bring master teachers to Edmonton to convey their expertise to our teachers, speak with our parents, and teach our children. We host a fall institute and spring festival each year with low fees so our children can have yet another valuable opportunity to perform in front of an adjudicator. We can continue to expand our music library. We can also purchase and maintain pianos for our students to play at group classes and concerts.

ESPS is always seeking ways to further educate and support their parents, and the casino helps to facilitate some of these endeavours. The casino is our only fundraiser and without it we would need to hold many more, far less profitable fundraisers. Ultimately, this would mean more time is spent by each volunteer and more pressure on our ESPS members to ask friends and family to purchase popcorn tins or chocolate bars.

Two days of hard work; each volunteer gives up 8 hours of their time. “*Our lives are way too busy for this!!*”, some say. I completely understand that the casino ends at 3 a.m. I understand that it is out of our routine and therefore seems far more arduous. However, the casino is once every two years, and it really pays off when we receive the cheque.

I am still in need of several volunteers to fill count room positions on Monday, May 4 and a cashier position plus a couple of count room positions on Sunday, May 3. It is a lot of fun to work in any one of these positions; I have worked them all. Although I dread having to stay up until 3 a.m., it goes by very quickly. I love talking to all the ESPS volunteers; we rarely get to socialize at other events. I see the casino as a great opportunity to get know a few of you.

If you can offer your time, please contact me at 780-433-7658, slabs4@shaw.ca.

Thank you all,
Shauna Bevan-Stewart, Casino Chairperson

Annual General Meeting

The Board of Directors is holding its next General Meeting on Wednesday, March 25th, 2009. If you have questions about ESPS, would like to meet the volunteers who form our Board, or are interested in getting involved yourself, then we'd love to see you there!

8 PM, March 25, 2009
Suzuki Charter School (7211-96 A Avenue)
Refreshments will be served

Many hands make work light

Casino Volunteers Needed
May 3 - 4, 2009

Thank you to those who have volunteered for our upcoming casino. We are still looking for help. This one and only fundraiser that occurs every two years, supports the initiatives and services to ESPS members. If you haven't fulfilled your commitment yet this year and are interested in helping, please contact Shauna Bevan-Stewart at 780.433.7658.

It's GRADUATION time!

You've practiced for weeks, months, even years! You've struggled through difficult parts, learned new and difficult pieces, and endured many hours of repetition! **And you have succeeded!!** You made it to the end! You know all pieces by heart and can even play them with your eyes closed! Use your graduation to celebrate the success of your journey. Let your teachers, mentors, parents and friends celebrate with you. Here are some tips for having a graduation that celebrates your success.

- **Dress up for your graduation!** This is a special occasion: you've done much preparation for it. Jeans, T-shirts, shorts, and messy running shoes are not worthy of your performance.
- **Arrive early** so you do not feel rushed before your performance. If you are not familiar with this area, then plan to come extra early so you are not late for the graduation.
- **Invite your relatives and friends.** Just as they are important to you, you are important to them. They would want to see what you have accomplished.
- **Stay until the end of the graduation** when the plaques and certificates are given to students and photos are taken. A picture is worth a thousand words.
- **Stay for the reception afterwards.** Savour the moment with your family and friends.

Where: Muttart Hall, inside MacEwan College's Alberta College campus in the heart of downtown, overlooking the river valley: The address is **10050 MacDonald Drive**, which is west of the big Telus Tower and east of McDougall United Church. There are only four buildings on that street, so once you get onto MacDonald Drive, you can't miss it.

Access: Drive south on 100 St., then west on MacDonald Drive, which is a one-way street. Access to the parking lot is on the west side of Alberta College. Parking is a few dollars on a Sunday. Alternatively, street parking for free may be available near 102 St. or 103 St.

Muttart Hall is the concert hall on the main floor. The easiest way to find it is from the MacDonald Drive main entrance: it is immediately accessible inside the front doors. If you enter through other doors, then go through the large hallway until you come to the front doors.

Next graduation: Sunday, March 1st, 2009 in the afternoon

Tim Eckert, ESPS Teacher

Boost Your Brain - Read a Book!

Winning Ways – Strategies for Suzuki Parents

This book contains a collection of articles from a number of different authors. It is the follow-up book to the First Class Tips book that was in the tote bags last fall. It is one of the first Suzuki books that I've read. Being a new Suzuki parent, I felt it offered some really valuable advice, not only on the Suzuki music education, but also parenting in general. Each chapter is jam-packed with excellent ideas, motivational stories, and special hints and tips for Suzuki parents. The target audience is any parent from the pre-Twinkles stage to the teenage years.

Phuong Chau

(This book costs \$12 and is also available for loan from the ESPS music library.)

Practice Binder Tip

Student Pet Peeve:
Don't just say "one more time",
especially when it is
five more times!

– Marilyn Andersen, Master Teacher at the 2008 ESPS Fall Institute

January 2009

Graduation

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and well-deserved graduations:

Volume 1

Madeline Lietz
Sophia Salouk
Silas Truong
Isaac Xiao

Volume 2

Alexandra Federkiewicz
Lara Percival
Joanna Schmidt
Jessica Xiao

Volume 3

Kathy Nguyen

Volume 4

Yoyo Siu

Volume 5

Cindy La
Ciara Prithipaul

Congratulations to the parents as well for supporting the students:

*One cannot look at a small child and randomly choose what he does well and what he does poorly. I have repeated many times that more important than whether one **is talented** or not is a good environment in which a child will **become talented**.*

- Shinichi Suzuki

**Next graduation:
Sunday, March 1/09**