



# Twinkling The Ivories

September 2008

“All children are born with great potential.”

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## Welcome to Another Exciting Year!

As co-presidents of the Edmonton Suzuki Piano School (ESPS), Karen Spencer and I would like to welcome all of our families who are returning to school. September is such an exciting month! For many children, it can be a little overwhelming with a new school or class, new teachers, and sometimes new friends. Re-establishing a routine for homework and piano practice after the tumultuous and changeable summer is important and can be challenging.

This year, the ESPS is offering a helping hand to new parents and students with welcoming bags chock-full of great ideas on how to establish a routine for practicing that is both fun and workable. This information is also available to our more established families who may be finding that they would benefit from a few new ideas on how to keep practice times fresh and engaging.

We encourage all of our Suzuki families to check the website regularly for information on upcoming events, Board activities, and informative articles. The site is updated regularly and is our way of keeping in close contact with you.

Best wishes to everyone!

Sincerely,

*Shannon Prithipaul and Karen Spencer, Co-Presidents*



## Family Practice Totes

By now, all ESPS families should have received their very own family tote bag. We hope you are enjoying the treats inside your totes and are able to incorporate them into your practices. Perhaps you've come up with some creative ways to use the yellow die at practice time, or you've picked up some ideas by reading *First Class Tips for Suzuki Families*.

We encourage you to use the practice binder and adapt it to make it your own. We've included enough lesson pages for the year, but if you need to print more, you can access the file at [www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca](http://www.edmontonsuzukipiano.ca). We'd also love to hear any ideas you might have to make it more effective. You can send your feedback to Kim Green at 780.488.0548.

2008/09 Calendar

**Workshops, Institutes, Festivals**

November 8 & 9: Fall Institute  
Saturday, April 18, 2009: Spring Festival

**Graduation Ceremonies**

Sunday, October 26, 2008  
Sunday, January 18, 2009  
Sunday, March 1, 2009  
Sunday, May 31, 2009

**Recitals**

Sundays, February 8 and 22, 2009  
Sundays, June 7 and 14, 2009

**Groups' Concert**

May 24, 2009

Fall Institute - November 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008

So, what is the Fall Institute and why should we go?

The Edmonton Suzuki Piano School (ESPS) hosts the Fall Institute every November. It is basically a Suzuki piano weekend that brings in guest teachers from out of town and offers special events to help motivate you and your child. When your child registers for a master class, then he/she will have an opportunity to play for a guest teacher and, therefore, will benefit from the advice and expertise of a different teacher. This year, we are very pleased to welcome master teachers Marilyn Anderson, Theresa Ho and Susan Magnusson to the Institute. Also there is an extracurricular activity for the students. Last year, it was drumming. Stay tuned to see what will be offered this year.

For parents, we have a presentation conducted by one of the guest teachers. You are also encouraged to watch other lessons during the weekend. Try to watch lessons from your child's level and the next most advanced book. You are welcome to observe as many lessons as you like, since all master classes are open and free to all master class students.

The Edmonton teachers also benefit from the Fall Institute. They obtain new ideas from the guest teachers, and they learn from watching someone else work with their students.

If you would just like a taste of this event (the largest ESPS event every year) without signing up for a master class, then you may register as an observer, and you and your family can observe all the master classes.

For children, being in the Institute can be motivating. It can give them more incentive during their practices. By hearing more advanced repertoire during the weekend, they can be inspired, "Oh, wow, what a cool piece. I get to do that soon. I'd better practice more and get into book 3!" Or, students may observe, "Oh, I'm not the only one who has to work on hand position!"

Overall, the Institute is a good time to connect with other Suzuki parents, make new friends, and hear some great playing. I encourage you to register!

For more information, or to register for the Fall Institute, speak with your teacher.

*Tim Eckert, ESPS Teacher and Teacher Representative, ESPS Board*

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## Four Ways to Use Your Yellow Die in Practice

- Roll the die and use the number to squeeze the die that many times with one hand. Repeat with the other hand. This is great for small kids who need to build up strength in their piano muscles.
- Roll the die to determine the number of times you practice a challenging section of a piece.
- Roll the die to decide who picks the next piece to practice, e.g. even numbers = kid's choice, odd numbers = parent's choice.
- Roll the die to find the song number to practice. Student can roll twice or three times, if necessary, to cover all the possible numbers, totalling up each number. So,  $6 + 1 = 7 =$  Mary Had a Little Lamb. This can be adapted to where the student is in the repertoire.

## Book 7

### Graduation

Congratulations to Jonathan Kikuchi, who will be playing in his Book 7 graduation concert on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Muttart Hall (1:15 pm).

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan Kikuchi has been an ESPS Suzuki piano student since age 3. He has been a regular participant in all ESPS Institutes and Festivals, including the Tri-Anniversary Celebration in 2005. He has also performed outside of Suzuki events several times over the last 10 years, including the Kiwanis Festival and church events, and he was one of three specially selected young musicians who performed for the CITADEL production of AMADEUS in 2003.

Jonathan is a Grade 8 student at Rosslyn Jr. High School. He is also a keen hockey player, playing Left Wing for the Northwest Hawks. He's also an avid reader and enjoys camping.

Jonathan's Graduation Recital will include the 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, a favorite Chopin Polonaise, a couple of jazzy Disney tunes in addition to the pieces in Volume 7.

All ESPS families are welcome and encouraged to come and enjoy!