



# Twinkling The Ivories

October 2010

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## Trick or Treating the Suzuki Way

When I began to read about Shinichi Suzuki's mother-tongue approach to learning, the concept that captured my imagination was the Suzuki Triangle. This ideal relationship is a supportive balanced relationship between student, parent and teacher. It is also symbol of symbiotic synergy in which all points of the triangle are in sync and working towards the same goals. How do we reach this ideal - by continuing to strengthen our role within the triangle. Shinichi Suzuki wrote that it is the parents' role to create the desire to learn in the child. How do we do this?

With Halloween as my inspiration, I suggest Trick of Treating the Suzuki Way:

1. Tricks – Use some new tools to make practise time interesting for you and your child. Recently I began to use the 100 day practise chart as a repetition chart. My daughter selected how she would celebrate its completion and off she went. Every time she played a review piece she filled in one square. Every time she worked on a new section, she filled in a square. This really sparked her interest and motivated her to practise (even early in the morning) and continue many more repetitions without prodding. With just a little something new, I could see her independence grow. By the end of week 3, her chart was completely filled in, a new Zhu Zhu pet had joined our family and we were making plans to start another.
2. Treats – Intrinsic pride develops as success builds upon success but sometimes a little treat is welcome inspiration. Celebrations whether activity, food, or object are all incredibly motivating for children. Why not surprise your pumpkin with a fun but free spontaneous activity following a practise session? We like to wrestle or play Tic Tac Toe. Everyone wins.



Enjoy the fun to come,

*Karen Spencer*

## Office Hours at SCS

ESPS is excited to announce weekly office hours at Suzuki Charter School (10720 54 Street). Each Friday from 9-11:30, administrator Kim Green will work amongst the pianos in Room 19 at SCS. So, if you need to purchase additional repertoire, borrow from our ESPS library, or simply want to chat, please drop by- we'd love to see you!

## Help Wanted:

Are you handy with sandpaper and a paint brush, and don't mind getting a little bit dirty? ESPS is looking for the services of a volunteer painter to refresh and renew one of our large storage cabinets at Suzuki Charter School. Paint and supplies will be provided. Please contact Kim at 780.488.0548 if you are able to take on this project.

## Get Involved with the Board!

Thanks to those of who attended our recent Annual General Meeting. We are pleased to welcome back all of our current Board members and extend a warm welcome to Rolinda Graham, our newest member. Rolinda is a mother to two piano-playing daughters at ESPS.

If you are interested in getting involved or would just like to attend our public meetings, please contact Kim Green at 780.488.0548 for meeting details.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates (8:00 – 9:00 pm, open to all members):**

October 27, 2010	February 23, 2011
November 24, 2010	March 23, 2011
January 26, 2011	April 27, 2011

## Mark Your Calendars:

### ESPS Casino March 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

It's the call many members of a non-profit dread: "**Are you available to come and volunteer at our casino?**" Your shoulders slump and you think of the long, long shift and the late, late night, and just how you're going to feel the next day at work. But you do it anyway, because you know just how much it helps out your organization. And you know that once you get there, you'll meet some interesting people and perhaps even have a little fun, all the while lending an important hand to your organization.

And that's the truth. Every 2 years, ESPS takes its turn to provide volunteer staffing at Casino Argyll. In exchange for 2 long days of hard work by about 40 volunteers, ESPS receives a cheque for about \$70,000. That's a lot of money, and it goes a long way towards subsidizing teacher training, piano equipment and maintenance, facility rentals, and costs for our group classes.

But we know it's a big commitment for you. That's why a casino shift counts as your volunteer commitment for two years. Essentially, casino volunteers receive a free pass from volunteering every second year.

The dates for ESPS' next casino are March 4 and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and we'll be looking for many volunteers to work at a variety of jobs morning, noon and night. If you chose the casino option on your volunteer form at registration time last spring, you'll be contacted shortly about your availability at this casino. Please take the time to consider whether you might be available for this very important event. If you didn't choose the casino option, but would like to help out after all, we'd sure appreciate it.

For more information, please contact Kim at 780.488.0548

## October 2010 Graduations

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

### **Volume 1**

Bernard Li

Elena Oberg

Malika Shourie

Amaan Suleman

### **Volume 2**

Bailey Devis

Madeline Lietz

Quinn Sweetzir

### **Volume 4**

Devan Chow

Kathy Nguyen

### **Volume 5**

Yoyo Siu

### **Volume 6**

Liesl Sham

## An Invitation from Suzuki Charter School:

Suzuki Charter School is opening the doors for all ESPS families to attend an inspirational parent session featuring Edward Kreitman at 7:00 on Friday, November 26, 2010 in the school library.

There will be no fee for participation in the event. For more information, contact SCS at 780.468.2598