
WDSS NOTES

West Denver Suzuki Strings, a Growing Musical Community

Thank you!

Thank you to those who have dropped off shoes, belts, and other concert clothes for the **Concert Clothes Exchange**. Your donation is greatly appreciated!

As your children grow, please consider collecting your black shoes, socks, belts, ties, white shirts/blouses, black pants/skirts and donating them for others to wear! Need concert clothes for your child? The Concert Clothes box is stored in the Large Studio (Mrs. B and Ms. Gill's) most of the time! Can't find it? As a WDSS teacher! In April, we will put it in the nursery so that you can access it anytime!

We want YOUR photos!

Do you have a great photo of your child playing their instrument? We are looking for photos and videos to update our website! Please send your photos to Ms. Crystal @ rosecrystal1018@gmail.com!

Please note that by sharing your photos, you are consenting to have your child's image shared on our website and other platforms!

Mrs. Laura Barnette

Stepping down from lead teacher position

After 50 years of Suzuki violin teaching and the last 4 years functioning as WDSS's Lead Teacher, **Mrs. B** will be stepping back. Zachary Ragent will be assuming the Lead Teacher position.

Mrs. B, known then as Laurie Cressman, began her musical journey in Lexington, Kentucky when she was introduced to the viola in the fourth grade. Spurred on by a strong youth orchestra and private teaching, she decided to go into music education. While earning her degree at the University of Kentucky she became fascinated with the Suzuki Method. She spent many Saturdays sitting in the corner of a classroom as she watched former student of Dr Suzuki, Kazue Baber, teach the very young students. One day when Ms. Baber was ill and not able to teach, one of the parents said, "Why don't you teach this class?" She did and was hooked.



In 1972 Mrs. B. attended the Stevens Point in Wisconsin, a Suzuki Institute as a student assistant and spent all her time observing. That fall she began teaching for Lexington Talent Education Association. In 1973, during a brief stay in Virginia, she started a Suzuki Program at Old Dominion University. She has maintained a private studio since then in

both Kentucky and Colorado, with some short times off to tend to her growing family. Over the years Mrs. B has also run summer music camps starting with a single quartet and growing to a full arts camp of 110 students.

Continued on next page!

Dates to Remember

April 22nd 2:00pm

WDSS Faculty Concert @ St. James

Save the date to come hear your teachers play some of their favorite classical pieces! More information to follow!

May 5th, 5:00pm

Dress Rehearsal for Spring Celebration with Primavera Place

*Denver South Seventh-Day
Adventist Church
2675 S. Downing St.*

May 6th, 4:00pm

Spring Celebration with Primavera Place @ same location

May 8-12

Piano Rehearsals @ St. James

May 20, 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30

Spring Solo Recitals @ St. James

July 10-14

Beginning Violin Camp

For Pre-Twinkle through late Book 1 Levels. Ages 6-12.

With Ms. Crystal and Mr. Zach

Register!

August 7-11

Chamber Music Camp

For more information about chamber camp, talk to your private teacher.

**Other Recommended
Summer Camps to check out:**

June 18-23

Beaver Creek Suzuki Institute

Website

July 17-21

Peaks to Plains Suzuki Institute

Website

Help us grow! Review us on

Google!

Mrs. B continued

In 2014 Mrs. B assisted her youngest daughter Annie Barnette when Annie founded WDSS. In 2018 Annie left to pursue a doctorate in violin performance and Mrs. B assumed the WDSS lead teacher role. Though Mrs. B is stepping aside from WDSS Lead Teacher duties she will continue to teach through May of 2024. She has impacted the musical journeys of hundreds of students!



"It has been one of the great joys of my life to enter and observe the growth in the lives of the students and parents who take this violin journey. Kids are totally amazing to me."

- Mrs. B.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnette play music in 1980

A Musical Treasure Hunt!

With Vanessa and Gabriella!

Gabriella had a fun practice a few weeks ago! Mom, Vanessa hid 5 clues that included violin practice activities and then she found the goodies at the end of the treasure hunt!

