

# Children love 'Music for Young Children' <sup>1985</sup>

A song describing a fluffy bunny brought the Easter bunny a-hoppin' into a Music for Young Children class on Monday morning.

Three children attend the hour long class weekly with either their mothers or babysitters. Marlene Borsella, the teacher, said the children are ages three and four. She also teaches an afternoon class of three children ages four to five and a half.

Borsella said Music for Young Children (MYC) is a new approach to teaching younger children how to play the piano. Classes consist of games and activities that are fun, but which teach the children music at the same time. The purpose of the activities is to work on ear training, singing, rhythm ensembles and keyboard activities.

To teach the children how to listen to music, Borsella said, she plays a song on the piano, then the children draw pictures to match the sound. If the music is sad, a child may draw a sad face.

She said they "sing quite a bit" in the classes. Before a child sits down at the piano, Borsella teaches the song and usually claps to the beat, so the child understands what a beat is. There is a lot of emphasis on rhythm in music.

Another way the children learn the beat is to play in an ensemble on makeshift instruments. Each child has a set of castanets he is supplied with at the beginning of the classes. Borsellas has also made her own drums from tin cans with plastic seals and hopes to buy a small set of cymbals and a set of sticks to bang together.

After singing the songs and learning how to keep the beat, each child is given a chance to play the song on the piano. Homework is also assigned weekly and can involve colouring a picture. Alice Kain, who has a daughter in the program, said the children are always being rewarded with stickers and stamps. Kain felt the program develops discipline by teaching the child to practise regularly, as well as to share instruments and learn to wait while other children take their turn.

MYC is made up of various levels and is geared for children aged three to eight. Borsella teaches the first two levels, entitled Sunshine I and Sunshine II. This is for ages three and four. Sunbeams I, II and III cover ages five and six. Moonbeams I, II and III are geared for ages seven and eight. There are variations. A child who has taken some sort of formal music training can be put in a higher level. When a child is finished the program, he may try his Grade One Royal Conservatory exam, and he may carry on with private lessons or end his music training.

Children involved in the program must be accompanied by an adult and the parent is expected to join in the songs and the activities. In the case of the younger children, the parent may remember how to play a song when it comes time to

practise.

Borsella uses games, such as marshmallow bingo, to teach the children musical notes and symbols. In this game, marshmallows are used instead of bingo chips and notes and symbols appear on the cards instead of numbers. Of course, the marshmallows are eaten when the game is done. Young children are not taught their notes right at the piano, like an older student would be, but through the use of cute animals and the games. Busy Beaver, for example, is the eighth note and Sleepy Panda represents the whole

note.

Borsella found out about the program from Alice Kain, a friend, who suggested she talk to Sally Greig, who was looking for someone to teach the program when she moved away. Borsella and Nancy Lamont, another Port Elgin teacher, attended two of Greig's classes, received all of her books and began teaching on their own. The classes are held in Borsella and Lamont's homes. The two of them will be attending a seminar in June to learn more about the program and to share ideas with other MYC teachers for teaching music.

Borsellas has been giving private lessons for several years now. She has her Grade eight from the Royal Conservatory of Music, as well as her Grade two in theory, a requirement for MYC teachers. Anything beyond that, such as teaching experience, is a plus, she added.

Borsella has wanted to do something like this for awhile and said she really

likes working with the children. She has only been teaching the program for three weeks, and felt she is starting out at a good level, not being "overwhelmed". She said she can grow with the kids as they advance to the different levels.

Until May 1st, the registration fee for the program is \$30.00. After that, it will be \$50.00. It covers the cost of a music case, music,

a book with all the program requirements, a set of castanets, a tin sheet with music-related magnets and some pins for the children to wear. It is a thirty-six week program. Borsella explained the teacher involved can charge her own price-

which is by the visit- depending on her experience. She charges \$6.50 for each class.

To sign up for the program or for more information, call Marlene Borsella at 832-6012 or Nancy Lamont at 832-5162.

SBVI-8

## S.D.S.S., North Port students win spots at Canada-wide Science Fair <sup>Apr 1985</sup>

A total of 473 projects covering topics ranging from volcanoes and water power to computers and the human heart were on display at the annual Bruce County Science Fair held at the Chesley Community Centre on Thursday.

A panel of 44 judges, headed by University of Guelph physics professor, Ernie McFarland, judged the projects submitted by 750 students from across Bruce County, and chose four to go to the Canada-wide Science Fair to be held this year in Cornwall.

Representing Bruce County at that fair will be Jennifer Preston of North Port Elementary School, Port Elgin, with her project "the Human Heart", which won the junior elementary class for students in grades four to six.

The best intermediate-elementary project was entered by Wilma Veenhof of the Mildmay-Carrick Public School. Her project was entitled "Snow as an Inflator".

Jason Fairclough of the Saugeen District Secondary School, Port Elgin, will also be going to the Canada-wide fair with his computer project "The Time Traveller", the best one entered in the intermediate secondary category for grades nine to ten.

Bob Armstrong, also of the Saugeen District Secondary School, topped the senior secondary physical science class with his project entitled "The Bernoulli Effect."

An additional Canada-wide participant was also selected by the judges.

Jenny Watson of the

Bruce Peninsula School, Wiarton, had the best senior secondary biology science project entitled "Range of Movement."

Winners included Todd Leifso and Jeff Bielby of the Elderslie Central School who won first in the agricultural display division with their project on erosion.

Robert Ahrens of the Chesley District High School won first in the senior secondary class and also a special IBM computer award for his project "Computers in Business".

Other first place elementary school finishers were Cailin Clarke, Lucknow Central; Raymie Paton and Thomas Warren, Wiarton; Sascha Tuuha, G.C. Huston, Southampton; Barbara Parsons and Diane Myles, Northport; Kevin Lauckner, Port Elgin-Saugeen Central; Marcia Mathews, Huron Heights, Kincardine; Becky Ackert, Lucknow Central; Rhonda and Danny MacDonald, Amabel-Hepworth Central School.

First-place secondary school award winners were Tony Duncan, Danny Mills, Pam Miller, Cheryl Grieve, Wendy Mills, Tracy McIver and Gord Bowman, all of the Bruce Peninsula District School. Others were Ray Woodason and Troy Manery, Walkerton District, and Robert Ahrens, Chesley District High School.

Special awards were given in various special categories including agriculture, health, energy conservation, electricity, engineering, product testing, scientific design and computers.



Jason Fairclough, of Saugeen District Secondary School, was the centre of attention at the Bruce County Science Fair, in Chesley, last week, with his winning project, Time Traveller, an introduction to history. Jason, who is in Grade 9 at SDSS, spent six months creating his computer program, which takes viewers on a trip through history, including a stop with the ancient Aztecs of Mexico. Jason will take his project to the Canada-wide Science Fair.