

Brothers are talented pianists

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

Ralph Borrelli could have saved all the money he's spent on music lessons for his four sons over the last eight years and showered them with an abundance of toys.

But that wouldn't be the true Ralph Borrelli, a strong believer that hard work pays off in all aspects of life — academics, sports and music.

That's why the Rockwood resident has told his sons, ages 8 to 14, that they must continue their weekly piano lessons until they pass their Grade 8 exam.

"Music has always been important to me," offers Ralph, 43, an accomplished accordion player who began music lessons at age 13 growing up in Italy. "I felt music was the gift to give to children that lasts a lifetime. I really do take pride in my children taking music."

"They don't see it now, but I think in the long run it will pay off for them."

It already has paid some dividends as all four have appeared on TV's *Big Top Talent*. And not surprisingly, eldest brother Mike is starting to see the rewards of his father's intentions.

Soon to pass his Grade 8 exam — he's set to do the practical component in June and theory in December — Mike excels at the piano and this year has picked up the clarinet as a Grade 9 student at Bishop Reding High in Milton.

"Playing piano at a young age has helped me understand music. I'm going into Grade 11 clarinet and I'm only in Grade 9. And I've picked up the guitar easily," reveals Mike, who attends a 45-minute lesson every Friday at Claire Bookbinder's keyboard studio in Rockwood.

Mike, 14, is baffled at how many people are amazed at the simpler things in music and not appreciative of the hardest tasks, like play-



Rockwood's Borrelli brothers, from top, Mike, Marc, Daniel and Jonathan, will all play until they pass their Grade 8 exam.

ing classical music on the piano.

"With other instruments, you play either a melody or bass line, but with piano you play both to make sound," he explains.

Making a lot of noise at last year's Kiwanis Festival in Guelph was younger brother Marc, 11.

The Grade 6 St. Joseph's student, who has played since he was 6, was a second and third-place finisher in the 10-and-under concert and ragtime classes.

Playing at a Grade 4 level, Marc is adapting to slow music studying Sonatina, which he describes as a version of a Sonata.

"I like competitions. After a piece I feel like I have done a good job," admits Marc, who practices 30 minutes a day, save for Mondays when he works with Bookbinder.

The remaining two brothers, twins Daniel and Jonathan, often work together and have enjoyed much success.

"We're close, sometimes,"

smiles Daniel, who lists the folk piece Neapolitan Tarantella as one favourite. "Sometimes Jon is off, but I keep going. We know in our minds when to start and stop."

The 8-year-old duo were second last year in their class at the Kiwanis Music Festival.

Both Grade 3 St. Joseph's students play at a Grade 2-3 level.

"They're very talented musicians, intelligent students and nice, clean kids," lauds Bookbinder, a graduate of the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary.

"I'm very proud of them all," Ralph, a principal at St. Richard's School in Mississauga, praises.

"They have the talent to be good musicians."

New principal visits Centennial school

CENTENNIAL NEWS

During the past two weeks many activities have taken place at our school. We had a visit from our new principal, Mrs. Graham, who will start at Rockwood Centennial following the retirement of Mr. Ward.

Our Grade 5 students went to Crieff to participate in the Earth Keepers program. They had fun staying overnight!

The Grade 8s had their graduation photos taken and everyone looked great! Even their parents would hardly recognize them. Graduation this year will be at Rockmosa Hall on June 27.

Many choir and band students participated in the Family of Schools Music Night at John R. Ross last Tuesday. The students sang and played beautifully — it was the highlight of their music activities this year.

And last Wednesday the Grade 7 and 8 students wrote the Gauss math test. Top scorers were Grade 7 students Brady Straw and Jessie

Davis, and Grade 8 students Cameron Bessey and Mike Wahlstrom. Other high scorers were Lee Jacob, Christie Lesley, Bevin Lyon, Natalie Henson, Andy Debartolo, Jake Weber and Drew Hodge. Congratulations to these bright math students.

The Grade 4s and Mrs. Simonato's class spent last Thursday at the St. Jacob's market. They saw the stockyards and did some vegetable and fruit shopping.

This week will be the junior and intermediate track and field meets, on Wednesday and Friday. Let's hope for sunny, warm weather on both of those days.



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Eden House hosts 2nd Alzheimer fundraiser

Eden House Care Facility is hosting their second annual Alzheimer fundraiser on June 15.

Last year, this event raised over \$8,000 for local Family Support and Education programs provided through the Alzheimer Society of Guelph-Wellington.

Throughout the week of June 12, a walk-wheel-a-thon for residents of Eden House Care Facility and their families will take place.

On June 15 at Eden House, teams from various organizations

will compete in the fun and wacky bed race which starts at 6 pm. At 8 pm, a baseball game featuring members of the Eramosa Fire Department, OPP and local dignitaries will play against members of the Eden House staff.

A barbecue and various raffles will be held throughout the evening beginning at 5:30 pm.

Sponsor sheets are available through the Alzheimer Society of Guelph-Wellington and through Eden House (856-4622).

KITCHEN-PANTRY

Position entails food preparation of salads and cold appetizers plus clean-up duties. Experience is preferred. Permanent part-time employment, approximately 20 to 35 hours a week. All weekends (day & evening) plus holiday Mondays, some week nights required.

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