



Musick Notes

November 2009
Thankfulness

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My beloved family and friends,

For all the stories of my day-to-day life, be sure to read my blog at: <http://musickfamily.net/jill/blog/> - this newsletter cannot cover everything that has happened in the last month!

Swine Flu

BFA experienced a bout of Swine Flu that caused the school to shut down for two school days.

Unlike regular schools, closing down does not isolate students; it sends them all back to their dorms where they share each other's diseases! However, the dorm parents were all careful to isolate the sick students within the dorm, so the flu did not spread too much.



The RA at HBR records students' temperatures

Thankfully, I did not catch the flu, though I did spend some time in one of the dorms that had sick boys. On the Monday and Tuesday of the Swine Flu Lockdown, I went to HBR and helped with cooking, making sure the boys did their chores, and just hanging out with the guys.

Music Recital

The music department had its second music recital of the year. Performers included piano ensembles, student and teacher piano solos, and two of my violin students.

My two students' performances were very different, but both were very good. One student played a pretty piece, and I played a harmony part with her. The other student performed his solo with such character that he actually had the audience laughing in the middle of his performance! His piece, "Gavotte from Mignon," is cheerful, and his facial expressions took it to a new level of joy and happiness. I love to see my students enjoying their music, and this particular student is able to bring that joy to the audience as well.

Nursing Home

On Wednesday, November 25 I took the orchestra to the nursing home. We brought two additional players to fill out the sound.

The music was lovely, and the audience appreciated it. One of the girls has a hard time talking with strangers, but she is making an effort to reach out to the people in the nursing home. I am thankful to be teaching at a Christian school because I have the opportunity to help the students understand how to use their talents to glorify God.

In preparation for the nursing home performance, the two orchestra girls and I played our Christmas carols in the student center during lunch. It created a fun atmosphere. Students who normally would not go to BFA recitals were able to hear string music, hopefully creating more interest.

Study Hall

In devotions, I talked about how to study the Bible; now each student has a day to discuss what he or she has been studying. Several of the kids have approached it by searching the Scriptures for an answer to questions that have been bothering them (Why is there pain? Why does God hide things from us?). I am incredibly thankful that these kids are taking this time seriously and are not just ignoring doubts and questions.

Thanksgiving

I celebrated Thanksgiving twice; once with HBR, and once with WorldVenture.

I am thankful to God for so many things: my health, my students' growth in music and in maturity, my loving family, and so much more!



Feasting and friends at HBR

What's Up Ahead

Dec. 13 – Christmas Concert
Dec. 17 – Last day of school until January
Dec. 18 – My brother David arrives
Dec. 26 – Visit the Kellys in Germany
End of Dec. – visit Czech Republic

I ask that you pray for the following:

- **Praise** God for His many blessings
- **Praise** God that the study hall kids are taking devotions seriously
- **Pray** that the Christmas concert would go smoothly and that we would have enough rehearsal time to be prepared
- **Pray** that more students will be able to join orchestra next semester
- **Pray** that God would continue to help the study hall students think seriously about their faith

God bless you all!
~Jill Musick



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