



THE BEACON

MT. GREYLOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER-MARCH 16, 2006

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined”.

-Henry David Thoreau

School Council Creates Improvement Plan

The MGRHS School Council is comprised of interested parents, students, teachers, administrators and community members who meet monthly to focus on the School Improvement Plan and to review and revise the Student Handbook. By law, each secondary school in Massachusetts must establish a School Council whose purpose is to improve and support the school by helping to shape its policies and programs.

This year's Council created a School Improvement Plan that includes three goals for the 2006-2007 academic year. They are as follows:

1. Create a scheduling process that supports the educational mission of MGRHS.
2. Define citizenship, develop a protocol for measuring progress toward citizenship and establish a clear connection between citizenship and the MGRHS mission statement.
3. Update technology in the school to promote clear and efficient communication and to support Goals One and Two. These three goals will be presented to the School Committee at a meeting this spring for approval.

The School Council will spend the remaining months of the year reviewing and revising the student handbook. All members of the community are asked to share their comments about the handbook with the Council. Suggestions and recommendations for revision are most welcome. They may be sent to Mr. Payne (tipayne@mgrhs.org), Ms. Kaiser (ekaiser@mgrhs.org), to student representative Katie White (ktsnow@aol.com) or parent rep. Liz Costley (lizcostley@adelphia.net).

The School Council seeks new members for three year terms beginning in September 2006. We need students, teachers, parents and community members who are interested in making MGRHS a better place. Please contact co-chair Liz Costley (lizcostley@adelphia.net) by April 1 if you are interested in learning more about or serving on the Council. Elections will be held at a PTO meeting this spring.

Pianist Ran Jia comes to Mt. Greylock

Pianist Ran Jia will be coming to Mount Greylock on Friday, April 7 to play an assembly program. This will be part of the fifteenth annual *Discovering New Artists* series presented at the school by Williamstown Chamber Concerts. Each year a young artist or young ensemble has come to Mount Greylock (also to Drury High School in North Adams) to play for the students and to talk about their life as a performer. In addition to the school programs, the artists play a free public concert at the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute. A number of these young musicians have gone on to perform with major symphony orchestras and are well on their way to careers as soloists.

Born on December 31, 1988 in Chengdu, Sichuan, China, Miss Ran Jia began to study piano at the age of three and a half. She is currently studying at the Curtis Institute of Music, the prestigious all-scholarship music school in Philadelphia, with Mr. Gary Graffman, a distinguished pianist and the Director of the Curtis.

Ran Jia comes from a musical family: Her father, Professor Daqun Jia is one of the leading composers in China and Dean of the Graduate Study Programs in Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Ran showed her great talent for music at a very early age. Especially, she had very strong auditory acuity on melody and harmony and that surprised her initial teacher, Prof. Peng Shijun in Sichuan Conservatory of Music, China. After Ran played the Mozart's sonata in F major (K533) at the master class in Shanghai Conservatory of Music in October, 2001, piano master Fu Chung appreciated her performance very much, and said: "You have amazing natural feeling on music and I really appreciate your performance". ('Evening News in Shanghai' Oct. 17, 2001)

Ran made her solo debut in 1995. Since then, she has had many public performances in Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu, Fuzhou and Xiamen in China and received several important international awards.

On May 16, 2004, Ran presented her recital with great success at the Heluting Concert Hall in Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China.

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The Oriental TV Station in Shanghai made two special programs to introduce Ran's piano performance and her life as a young artist. On November 3rd, 2005, Ran was selected to perform in Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center at the special "Junior/Senior Concert" with her teacher, Mr. Gary Graffman and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. In the concert, Ran played Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K.467 under the baton of Mr. Li Jian. Students are invited to Ran Jia's public concert at the Clark on Saturday afternoon April 8 at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free. Her program will consist of Beethoven's Sonata in f minor, Op.57 ("Appassionata") and Schubert's "Wanderer" Fantasy D760.

In My Childhood I was Certain

In my childhood I was certain
That TV shows had tiny people in them
The people were not existent in real life
They were only there so that shows
could have people
The people in the television could see
you
While you were watching
They gazed at you through the glossy
glass screen
If you did something
They might have jumped out of the
screen at you
I don't think that now but
In my childhood I was certain

Haley Flynn

GOINGS ON

Mon. Mar. 20-First Day of Spring



*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils.
~William Wordsworth~*

Look for **THE BEACON** on the Mt. Greylock web-site under MS News: www.mgrhs.org

Please send items for the next issue of The Beacon by
noon, Tuesday, March 21 to:
Larsolaris@yahoo.com / 458-8015 or
Lizcostley@adelphia.net / 458-5894