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KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

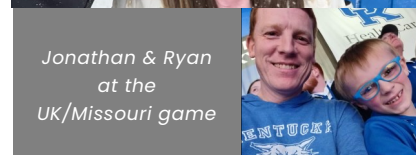
January has been a fairly slow month for us, except for attending Will and Ryan's basketball games on Saturdays.

Ryan got to attend his first UK game with his dad. Ryan won a \$100 gift card to DQ!

We're planning a spring break trip along with Andrea, Jonathan and their family to visit our son and his family in Cleveland, Ohio.



Jon-Michael, Tiffany, Hadlee, Landree



Jonathan & Ryan
at the
UK/Missouri game



Jonathan, Andrea,
Natalea

Papaw & Will

Ryan

Evie, Megan



KEYS NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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NATALIE TIMONEY

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Natalie as a
Frappuccino and
Ollie as a pup cup
for Halloween

Meet Natalie Timoney, 11 years old, born here in Lexington.

She lives with her mom, Andrea, dad, Peter, brother, Alex (9), and Golden Doodle Ollie (2).

I'm in 5th grade at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. My favorite subject is Art because I love to draw and

paint, and Social Studies because my teacher Mr. Myers makes it fun— for example we had to learn about the American Revolution and he turned it into a puppet show. I am involved in the Stars Singers choir group and we perform in mass and at school events. I love my school because the principal gives my dog, Ollie, a treat every morning in car line.

I swim year round for the Lexington Dolphins. It is in an outdoor, heated pool but it can get really chilly when you have to change afterwards. Swimming in the snow can be really fun. I also swim in the summer on my neighborhood swim team, Hartland Pineapples. I have been playing the piano for about 4 years, and I am learning to play the flute at school, too.

I love to travel. My mom is British and my dad is Irish. They met in Kentucky! My favorite place in the world is Sandymont, Dublin. I want to go to college in Dublin and live there when I am older. Ireland has many beautiful beaches and people swim in the sea (it is cold) all year round. I love to eat cauliflower and cheese and Cadbury's chocolate crunchies there. The chocolate in England and Ireland is 100 times better because it has lots of extra cream in it. My aunt and uncle and Grandparents live in Australia but I haven't been over to visit them yet.

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COMMUNITY Studio Happenings

Hi! WELCOME NEW STUDENT!
OLIVIA HATTON

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
PAIGE BONIN FEB 7
GABE BAILEY FEB 14
ANAYA CHILUWAL FEB 19

IMPORTANT DATES
WINTER PERFORMANCE
FEB 24
SPRING BREAK APR 1-7
SPRING RECITAL MAY 13

WINTER PERFORMANCE

Our Winter Performance at another senior residence is coming up this month! Here are the details:

WINTER PERFORMANCE

Saturday, February 24 @ 2:30 p.m.

Highgrove at Tates Creek

4251 Saron Drive, Lexington

Each family represented is asked to make **20 Valentines or "Thinking of You" cards** for the residents.

We'll pass them out after the performance.

Please scan the code to RSVP (Yes or No) by Feb 15:



NOTE WORTHY

Our 9th Annual Practice Competition will begin after Spring Break. Watch for all the details about qualifications, prizes, and the pizza party in March.

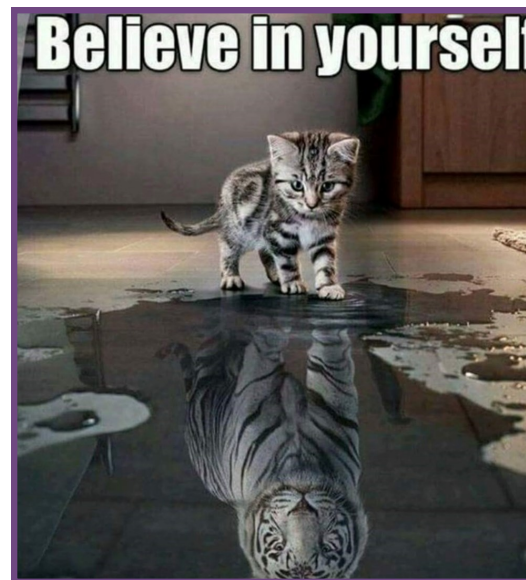
The Sight-Reading Challenge continues through February. Students are telling me that they can tell a difference even just spending a few minutes a day sight reading something new!

I appreciate all my piano parents! Here are a few ways you can help your student feel prepared for their lesson each week:

- Take a few moments to really listen to your student play their pieces each week. Showing that you're interested in their progress will help keep them interested in playing.
- Check their music folder WEEKLY for notes from me and to initial their Weekly Practice Log.
- Make sure they come to lessons with ALL music and their music folder. They will feel more prepared and have a more positive and productive lesson.

THANK YOU!

FUNNY CAT MEMES



Happy Valentine's Day

PRACTICE TIPS

How to know the best fingering to use

When you're first starting out as a beginner piano player, your pieces pretty much stay in one hand position, and you don't have to move your hands around on the keyboard. Then you're asked to move perhaps one finger out of position at a time. Before long, you're moving into lots of hand positions, sometimes even crossing fingers over or under each other! This is because most music isn't written in one hand position; it's written for the beautiful melody, no matter where it may take you.

The best way to feel comfortable moving your hands around on the keyboard is to use good fingering that flows easily from one finger to the other. Most pieces will have suggested fingering written in. But sometimes, it's hard to know what the best fingering is.

- 1 Try to follow the suggested fingering numbers.** Sometimes you'll see one or two finger numbers with no fingering written in for several notes. For the notes with no fingering, it's usually best to use the finger that's already resting on the given note to keep it simple.
- 2 Play what's comfortable for you.** Sometimes the suggested fingering just isn't a comfortable fit for your hand. In that case, play the passage trying a few different fingerings to find what works best for you. If you change the suggested fingering, be sure to WRITE IT DOWN in your music and use that fingering EVERY TIME.
- 3 Learn basic finger patterns for scales, chords and arpeggios and their inversions.** Many pieces have scales, chords, and arpeggios as part of the melody. And being familiar with established correct fingering will give you a foundation for what fingers to use inside your pieces and make playing these passages so much easier!
- 4 Be "intelligently lazy."** Always use the hand position that allows you to stay in a comfortable position rather than awkwardly jumping or crossing fingers over each other. When your fingers find a position to play the notes comfortably, it doesn't take as much concentration because your fingers flow more naturally.
- 5 Avoid using your thumb on black keys when possible.** With your thumb being your shortest finger, it naturally feels more comfortable to play the more accessible white keys with your thumb rather than black keys, which take more effort and turning to reach with your thumb.



NATALIE (CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

My family and I are planning a trip to New York City over spring break. I am looking forward to seeing China Town (to get dumplings and boba tea) as well as going to the 9/11 museum. My dad's cousin and her family moved there from Dublin in September so we will get to see them too.

I recently won 1st place in my schools 5th grade science fair competition and will go on to the Fayette County Science fair in February. I tested whether flower food really helps extend the life of fresh flowers and it does not!

I love listening to Taylor Swift and playing with my dog. We adopted Ollie when he was one year old and

we have had him a whole year. We call him the 'BFG' - big, fluffy, goat - because he eats everything.

I enjoy playing the piano because I feel a great sense of achievement when I learn a whole song. I also like being able to play for people when they come to the house. I love



playing duets the most with Ms. Dana and my mom. I hope to be able to teach my neighbors young children how to play the piano when I am a bit older.

Natalie always has a ready smile and is an absolute joy to be around! She has a wonderful sense of humor and a great

practice ethic. She always comes to lessons prepared, usually with her pieces memorized. Knowing that she's interested in teaching piano to her neighbor's children warms my heart!