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# KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### NEWSLETTER INFO

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Free to students enrolled in  
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KEYS | OCTOBER 2023

## WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Soccer season comes to an end this weekend. Will, Ryan and Natalea had great seasons. Megan wasn't as interested in kicking the ball. Perhaps there's another sport she'll like better.

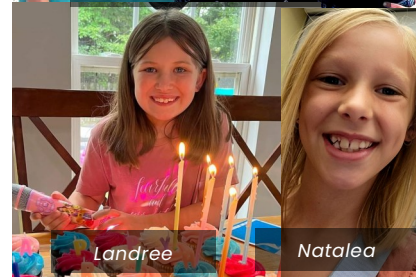
Will turns 11 on October 30, and Natalea isn't far behind, turning 9 on November 3. Happy birthday, Will and Natalea!

My dad and stepmom came to visit for a few days.

My new piano was delivered a couple weeks ago! Seeing student's reactions to a different piano when they saw it for the first time was priceless. My old piano, which was the one I practiced on when I was a child is staying in the family, passed down to my daughter and grandchildren.



Hadlee & Landree  
with Tiffany's mom



Landree      Natalea



Me and my dad

Evie & Papaw

Will

Megan

Ryan



# KEYS NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## PAXTON SMITH

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Paxton

Meet Paxton Smith. He lives with Mom (Ashley) and Dad (Jason).

Our dog, Callie, recently passed away.

lessons. Someday I want to learn to play the guitar.

Paxton began his second year of piano this fall, and he's already moving into level 2 music. He recently learned a piece from his mom's level 3 book from when she took piano.

He's diligent to practice and loves to surprise me with how many songs he's memorized. I have no doubt that Paxton will learn to play many instruments!

She was 20 years old.

I go to Rosa Parks Elementary School. I'm in 2nd grade. My favorite subject is math. I also love to play tag at recess.

I like playing baseball. I play in the minors kid pitch league. My favorite team is the Kentucky Wildcats.

My favorite tv show is *Beyblades*. I like spending time with my cousin Edison because he is very funny. We like to trade Pokemon cards.

One of my favorite trips was to Disney World. I also went on a cruise in Alaska.

I'm taking piano lessons because my mom made me take piano lessons before I could take guitar

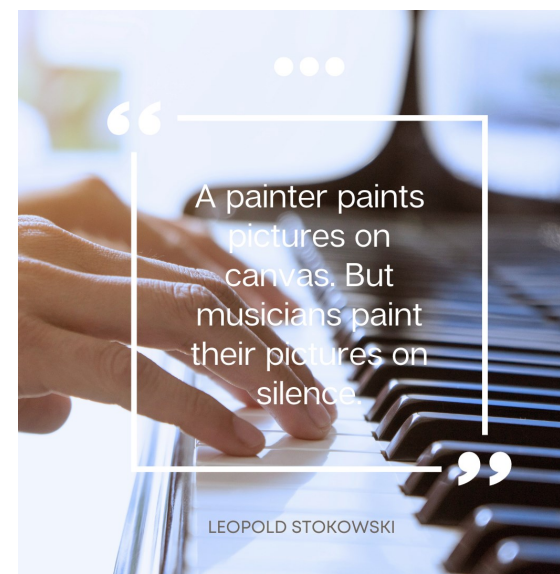


## COMMUNITY Studio Happenings

**Hi!** WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!  
RUPAK SWAMINATHAN  
QUINN BAILEY  
SUSAN MARNATTI

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!  
ETHAN ABRAMS      OCT 9  
JOSEPH REEDER      OCT 14  
JOSIE SIMS      OCT 16  
SCARLETT OCHS      OCT 20  
CAMDEN HAYNES      OCT 24  
QUINN BAILEY      OCT 26

IMPORTANT DATES  
FALL PERFORMANCE  
OCT 28  
NO LESSONS TUES-WED-THURS  
THANKSGIVING WEEK (NOV 21-23)  
CHRISTMAS RECITAL DEC 11



LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI

## OCTOBER VIDEO PROJECT!

Kids these days (and adults, too, it seems) are consumed with TikTok and Instagram. They love making videos and silly pictures— if the crazy pics and videos with goofy filters my grandkids leave on my phone are any indication!



The Blues Brothers, AKA Will and Ryan

with someone dressed as a famous composer or favorite musician or singer (Elvis, perhaps?).

- **Tour videos / travel vlogs.** Take us to a destination (perhaps where a famous composer is from) and show what the art, architecture, clothes, etc. were like during the time of that composer.

I'd like to incorporate this trend into piano for a little fun and thinking outside the box. What better time than October, a fun fall season with a favorite holiday in the mix?

So, here's a new project to try in trendy social media fashion. Choose a favorite or new piece (something fall or Halloween themed would be appropriate) and create a video or series of pictures with your music in the background or as the feature of the video. Use your imagination, and most importantly, have fun! Here are some ideas from some of the most popular types of YouTube videos:

- **Use product reviews** to share pros and cons of "new products" and opinions on whether we should buy them. Review a musical concept, or a historical innovation such as the piano.
- **On the Street Interviews:** Scripted interviews staged in one of the classical eras or

Take one of the suggestions listed above or come up with your own idea.

**Submit your project** to me via Google Drive (dana@danamartinstudio.com) by October 28.

**I'll create a YouTube playlist** with your creations. Kids and adults are invited to participate. I can't wait to see what you come up with!



## FALL PERFORMANCE

The Fall Performance is scheduled for Saturday, October 28 @ 11:00 a.m. The UK football times are only scheduled out a week or two in advance, so I chose a morning time because most games are afternoon or evening.

All students are invited to participate. Please make about 20 "Thinking of You" cards to present to the residents.



turns out the meow was coming from



Here are the details:

**SATURDAY, OCT 28 @ 11 am**  
**MORNING POINTE SENIOR LIVING**  
**233 Ruccio Drive, Lexington**

Please RSVP:  
bit.ly/dmsfp2023rsvp or  
scan code.



## PRACTICE TIPS

How to improve your sight reading

1

Just like reading a lot as a child helps you learn to read better and faster, sight reading more will help you sight read music better and faster. Of course, I have you sight read your new pieces each week, but only sight reading a piece or two per week isn't enough to improve your sight reading. During your practice time each day, try sight reading more music that you've never played before. Start with a line or two of 5-10 pieces each day. If you do this at least five days a week, you will be sight reading 50+ new pieces per week! The more you do this, the better at sight reading you'll get.

2

Learn to read intervals and chords instead of individual notes. For example, when you read a sentence, you aren't spelling each word as you read. That would take forever! Just like you've learned how to read words and sentences rather than individual letters, recognizing musical combinations and patterns will help you look at music differently and read MUCH faster!



## FUN FACTS ABOUT S'MORES

Even though National S'mores Day is August 10, I think of S'mores as a fall treat as well. The grands love roasting marshmallows over their fire pit, especially on their fall birthdays — Will's is October 30, and Natalea's is November 3.

Here are some fun facts about s'mores:

- S'mores became a word in 1974. It's a contraction of the phrase "some more."
- A s'more recipe appeared in a Campfire Marshmallows cookbook in the early 1920s, where it was called a "Graham Cracker Sandwich."
- Later, in 1927, the Girl Scouts published a similar recipe in "Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts." In a nod to the treat's addictive qualities, it was dubbed "Some Mores."
- Loretta Scott Crew, who made them for Girl Scouts by the campfire, is given credit for the recipe.



- The largest s'more weighed over 200 pounds.
- The graham cracker was invented by the Presbyterian minister Sylvester Graham, who was highly influential in the development of the health food movement of the 19th century. The health-conscious Sylvester Graham is probably rolling over in his grave after what became of his beloved cracker.
- National Toasted Marshmallow Day is August 30, just 20 days after it's brother National S'Mores Day. It makes sense, given that more than half of all marshmallows sold in the summertime end up toasted over a fire. Surprisingly, there is no plain old National Marshmallow Day. Apparently it's toasted or nothing at all.