

# Studio Notes

## Fall piano recital *recap*

Despite the lengthy check-in procedure, the fall recital at Oakwood was an undeniable success. Many families relayed to me how impressed they were with the students' poise and the artistry with which they played. Needless to say, I was proud of my students' performances. Thanks to the hardworking students who learned new pieces (beginners) and the returning students who managed to keep their pieces performance-ready through the summer despite the COVID delay. Thanks also to my piano parents who have encouraged a bead-load of practice this semester. Bead chains are growing and the competition to have the longest bead chain at year's end is fierce.



## Final week of lessons in Semester I (December 13-16)

Traditionally, the final week of piano lessons each semester in my studio is a Music Skills Acceleration Day (AKA *Game Day*). A lot of thought and time goes into the planning of the activities in which students participate to ensure that they're reviewing music concepts they should know.

*Younger students* will review note names/note values using a teacher-created Uno Game, they'll revisit simple rhythms using familiar Christmas phrases, they'll review their piano key names with two games, and they'll tap cups to the tune of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." If time allows, they'll also play a music version of *Pictionary*.

*Older students* will review the circle of 5ths, they'll attempt to identify Christmas carols by seeing a bar or two of music, they'll review note names by playing Crazy Eighths, they may attempt to play a Lead Sheet of a Christmas carol, and they'll also tap cups to a more difficult arrangement of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." If time allows, they too will play a music version of *Pictionary*.

*Piano-playing siblings may participate in Game Day together on their usual lesson day at their usual lesson times.* Students enrolled in my studio may also team up to participate in Game Day together. [Email me to let me know when your child will be coming and with whom.](#) Parents may also choose to have their child skip Game Day and have a "normal" piano lesson. Please let me know if the latter is your preference. Looking forward to this fun final week of lessons in 2021!

## Piano payments (semester only) will be due January 2022.

E-statements will be sent out in late December. Payments are due at the **FIRST** January lesson.

## Piano lessons in a pandemic *(Read my Studio Policies for details.)*

**Students who are exhibiting ANY cold symptoms (fever, runny nose, cough) OR have missed school on a piano day OR have a family member or classmate in quarantine SHOULD NOT attend in-person lessons. Please contact me to request a virtual lesson in these circumstances. Thanks for keeping me and my studio "bug"-free.**

## Dates to note:

- **December 13-16**—Final week of piano lessons in 2021
- **January 10-13, 2022**—Piano lessons resume/**semester piano payments due**
- **March 2022**—**Summer piano signup begins**

## No more snow days

Thanks to technology, cancelling piano lessons for inclement weather is no longer necessary. If school is cancelled due to snow/ice or if travel becomes treacherous late in the day, lessons can still take place virtually via the *Google Duo* app. Email me ([karenhunterpiano@gmail.com](mailto:karenhunterpiano@gmail.com)) or text me (**608-354-1827**) if you'd like to make use of virtual lessons via *Google Duo* and stay safe at home.

## Absence policy reminder

Your child's lesson time is reserved exclusively for your child. Furthermore, like gymnastics, dance, or swimming, the tuition you pay is based on enrollment, not attendance. **Lessons you choose to miss will not be made up.** I do not give refunds or credits for missed lessons unless the missed lesson is a result of *my* absence. When you register your children for piano lessons, you are **committing them to an entire year** (*September through May*) of lessons **on the agreed upon day and at the agreed upon time.** **No refunds** will be given should your child drop piano after the annual or semester payment has been made.