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Arts Awareness and Advocacy

The economy is dominating non-profit arts organizations and the public schools. As budgets are completed for the new fiscal year, July will offer a complete picture of the arts situation in Florida and the nation. Many are waiting on this information before making decisions about cut-backs in employees and programs.

I will be attending the Florida Association for Arts Education Leadership Summit in Lakeland next weekend. FSMTA is a Statewide Partner in FAAE. Dr. Eric Smith, Florida Commissioner of Education and Sherron Long, Director of the Florida Cultural Alliance will speak on the current situation and hopes for the future.

Below is an article I received about the value of piano lessons. PRMTA included this document as part of their Spring Recital program.

Respectfully submitted:

Sonja Rozier, A&A Chair

WHAT PIANO LESSONS CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN BECOME SUCCESSFUL

Piano lessons can help your child develop important cognitive skills that can help him/her be more successful later in life.

It's awe inspiring when you see a child sit down to a piano and play a complicated piano composition completely from memory. Many young children pick up piano technique very quickly and can be offered piano training between the ages of 4-6.

A study on six year old children showed that children given nine months of piano training scored an average of three points higher on intelligence quotient tests than those who didn't receive training. Learning to play the piano involves use of a variety of segments of the brain including areas housing spatial reasoning skill, emotion, creativity, and motor skills. Giving your child piano lessons may ultimately translate into more effective cognitive skills.

Another reason why piano lessons are helpful to children is that piano training requires focus and concentration. To play the piano successfully, a child must be able to read the music and translate the notes on the page into hand movements that express the musical passage. This requires a great deal of focused concentration on the part of the child. Development of the ability to focus can aid in achieving academic success later in life.

Most piano teachers host recitals for their piano students. Each child plays a song or songs from memory. By participating in piano recitals, your child will develop the ability to memorize long passages of music and execute them in front of an audience. This is an excellent way to develop memory skills.

When a child studies piano and successfully masters the skills involved in playing music, he/she develops self esteem and confidence in his ability. This confidence will follow your child throughout his/her school years and can make him/her a more successful student. This is why piano lessons are so often recommended at a young age.

By participating in piano recitals, your child becomes comfortable performing before a group which can be instrumental in helping your child overcome shyness. It also gives your child a skill he can perform at school events such as talent shows. Unlike gymnastics and some sports where the opportunity to play and be successful is limited to those who are young, piano lessons will give your child a skill he can carry into adulthood and even into old age.