

Music School Monthly Report
October 1950

Mr. Hand
File please

October was not as prosperous as September when it comes to new enrollees. It was a busy month, however, in other respects.

The schedule was thrown off by the departure of Mr. Orenstein. His leaving was made necessary because there wasn't a sufficient number of students to warrant the employment of another full-time instructor. He was engaged upon the condition that he was to take Miss Toryer's place while she was on leave from June 1949 to Sept. 1950.

Preparation was made for his leaving, but he left earlier than planned which made for a small loss and much confusion and inconvenience for the students. Miss Kawamura was engaged immediately on a part-time basis to take care of his pupils until such time as most of them could be transferred to other permanent instructors.

Although the number of hours required of each instructor could enable them to take more students than they were doing in the beginning of the term, a teacher could not teach a maximum load because the hours in which the students can come, (after school, on week days and Saturday) are less than the teachers' required hours.

This then made necessary the effort to increase pupil-availability time. It is virtually impossible to keep the students later than 6:15 P.M.: the parents protest the lateness of the hour. Even 5:45 is rather late because it will become dark earlier as the days go by. One attempt to increase teaching time was to approach principals of neighboring schools and ask that they allow our students to come to us during their school hours. We are still awaiting word from the Department of Public Instruction.

The Piano Ensemble class hitherto conducted by Mr. Orenstein was offered as a free extra-curricular activity for Music School students. Although another instructor could continue the class, it was decided that this time was needed for paid private instruction.

The faculty met twice this month. The bulk of the time was spent on revision of the Piano Department Requirements and checking the Piano Technic Chart drawn up by the Director. The teachers were asked about the progress in their writing of monthly reports to the Director of individual students and classes. The initial reports are necessarily long and will gradually become shorter in the succeeding months. Instead of being monthly reports, these were later changed to bi-monthly reports. These reports are to serve as the basis of conferences with Parents and the Director. In discussing individual students' progress, it was suggested that the lessons of two very young girls be changed two 15-minute periods instead of one 30-minute period. Miss Troyer was told about our

new procedure in assigning piano work. All teachers are now using notebooks in which are recorded all piano work so that there'll be no chance of the pupil's forgetting or misunderstanding the assignment and which also serves as a good record of all work covered here. There was some discussion on different piano books and their relative values.

The Group Work Department had the use of the Music School Auditorium for a Halloween Party on October 31. A Square Dance Group, an outside organization uses the auditorium every Tuesday night.

Bergstrom's came for our grand piano on Oct. 31. We hope to have it returned to us by the first of January.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Chun

Dorothy Chun, Director

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*This action was approved by the Executive Committee of the Board.