



News to Note

Issue #4
June 2018

The Year in Review...

It's the end of the school year! This year:

- 2 schools served
- 6 field trips
- 6 guest artist experiences
- 15 student performances
- 190 participants in regular weekly programming
- 425 participants in workshops
- 750 students served through music exposure



I love that Accent Pontiac has created a safe environment for my students to take risks and try new things. Accent Pontiac staff know how to push students towards their best while still making them feel loved and cared for." – Colleen Odil, 3rd Grade Teacher at Walt Whitman



Staff Update

We are excited to announce a new member to the Accent Pontiac team! James Tyner joined us as the new small group brass lessons teacher. Learn more about James at accentpontiac.org/staff.

A Note From Our Director, Tina Rowan

What an amazing second year at Accent Pontiac! From the beginning of our second year to the end, I've seen incredible growth. Growth in our students – physically, musically, and socially. Our students are taller than they were in fall, they are able to play more notes and rhythms than they were in the fall, and they work together as a team more so than they did in the fall.

I've also seen growth in our teachers. Our teachers have built stronger relationships with our students and are more comfortable working with them to create and compose their own music.

I'm so excited to share another aspect of growth as we plan for our 3rd year of Accent Pontiac's partnership with the Pontiac School District: program growth.

Next year, we will continue our partnership with Walt Whitman Elementary School and expand to welcome 4th graders into the Accent Pontiac program in addition to 2nd and 3rd graders.

In addition, we are thrilled to announce that we will expand programming to Pontiac's Alcott Elementary School in the Fall.

In preparation of our partnership with Alcott, we have held bucket band workshops with Alcott students on 4 occasions this year. The students we have worked with are inspiring!

They are creative and energized – eager to learn and make music. We can't wait to continue to share the joy of music making with them next year!



"Accent Pontiac has been a catalyst for all things positive in a school setting. Their amazing work has instilled pride, self-esteem, and the love for music in every student they teach." – Dr. Vanessa Carter, Principal of Alcott



Program Highlights

February 28: Black History Month Assemblies

Students at Alcott and Whitman Elementary Schools wrote and performed their original compositions “Dream” and “Everybody Celebrate Black History” for their school’s Black History Month Assembly.

March 4: Detroit Chamber Winds

Accent Pontiac Intermediate Brass and Performance Bucket Band students presented a pre-concert performance before a Detroit Chamber Winds concert at Kirk in the Hills.

March 29: Pistons Field Trip

Accent Pontiac students attended a Pistons Basketball Game at Little Caesar’s Arena!

April 12: Michigan State University Percussion Studio Assembly

The percussion studio from Michigan State University performed an assembly at Alcott Elementary School.

May 4: Pontiac Arts & Culture Crawl

Accent Pontiac students performed as part of this Pontiac community event.

May 7 - 11: Motor City Brass Quintet Workshop Week

Accent Pontiac hosted the Motor City Brass Quintet to lead a workshop week with Accent Pontiac Intermediate Brass students. On Friday, May 11, Accent Pontiac students performed with the Motor City Brass Quintet in an assembly at Whitman Elementary School.

May 12: Kirk Mission Conference

Accent Pontiac students performed as part of this event at Kirk in the Hills.

“My musical dream is to travel and go lots of places and play and become famous.” – De’Onnie, Accent Pontiac Intermediate Brass and Performance Bucket Band student.

Listening is Key

Did you know that listening skills are related to reading skills? They are! Listening involves attention, concentration, and comprehension – the same skills required for effective reading. When your child develops good listening habits, it not only helps in learning music, but in learning to read, as well. They are all related.

Here is another game that will help develop strong listening skills:

Names and Favorites – In this game, you take turns with your child thinking of names and food that begin with the same sound. To play, pick a category, for example, favorite foods. You would begin by saying, “My name is Tyler and I like Tacos.” Your child then says, “My name is Santos and I like spaghetti.” Take turns choosing different names and foods that share the same beginning sound. This is a listening game you can play in the car, at the kitchen table, or even in the bathtub! All you need is your brain and good listening skills.

We hope you will try this game. When children see that listening is important to you, it becomes important to them.



Upcoming Events

July 30 – August 10: Accent Pontiac Summer Program

Additional performances and field trips, as well as start dates for next year’s programming will soon be added to our calendar.

Stay up to date on our website:
www.accentpontiac.org/program

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For more information:

www.accentpontiac.org | www.facebook.com/accentpontiac | www.vimeo.com/accentpontiac