Music Makes Us Merry
by Lisa Hitch

It was a rainy day last week when my children and I walked over to the music building to attend a free noon hour concert by UVic music students. The concert hall began to fill with young and old and we sat in anticipation, looking at the empty stage, save a shiny, black grand piano. Could my boys sit here for one hour listening to string quartets? Well, they did and we were even hoping for more in the end. Each group performing played a piece so there was plenty of variety and we had time between pieces, as the chairs were set for the next performers, to talk briefly about what we just heard, look at the program and imagine what may be next and mostly marvel at the talent of these young musicians. I felt as though I had really discovered a hidden treasure in the midst of a hectic day. The School of Music presents free student recitals six times a week when classes are in session, as well as a regular concert series. The schedule is on their website (www.finearts.uvic.ca/music/events) or call them at 721-8559. The music inspired us, relaxed us and sent us home humming in the rain!

Share the Gift of Music
An Invitation to Children of our Family Housing Community

Any children who are interested in sharing their musical talents with other children of the Family Housing community are welcome to join the Holiday Music Recital. All you need to do is choose a favorite song, practice it well, and then come out and share it with other children. Piano, violin, cello, recorder, ukulele -- all instruments are welcome. You may even like to sing your favorite song! Please call by December 10th if you are interested in participating in this festive musical celebration!

This event is put on by and for children, so parents may help them prepare but due to space restrictions it will be for child musicians only. There will be plenty of adult supervision.

When: Wednesday, December 15 from 6:00-8:00
Where: 2904-2363 Lam Circle (Netanya Karmel’s house - inner circle)
What to Bring: Your musical instrument and a song to play
Note: A piano will be available for interested piano players (you won’t have to bring one!)
Phone: 383-8502 (Nadine, Joe, Ezra or Netanya)

Carolling in the Village
Sunday, December 12, 6:30 pm

The Cadboro Bay Village merchants host a seasonal caroling party for the community in front of Pepper’s. Warm drinks and goodies are provided, so dress warmly and come prepared to sing and be merry!
Holiday Hamper Available
This year Campus Security has donated another Holiday Hamper (includes ingredients for a festive dinner as well as a few Christmas gifts for the family). If you know a family that could use this help, please call the Family Centre and let Sonya know by Dec 13th. All names submitted will be kept confidential.

Holiday Treat Exchange  Tuesday December 7, 7 - 8pm at the Family Centre! Enjoy a visit with your neighbors while you share recipes, trade baking and spread some holiday cheer! Come and exchange your favourite bars, cookies or other holiday baking. Bring a minimum of 3 dozen homemade treats. Hope to see you there!

Free Weekly Cooking Classes by Conscious Kitchen Cooks at Peppers Foods – call 477-6513 to register or for more information.

Mulled Cider
Servings: 4-6
Time: about 15 minutes
Ingredients:
1 bottle (750 ml) apple juice (or cider for the adults)
1 lemon, sliced
1 orange, sliced (reserve some for garnish)
1/4 tsp grated nutmeg
2 cloves
1 cinnamon stick or 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon sugar to taste
Directions:
Combine all ingredients except sugar in a medium pot, cook at medium low heat, stirring occasionally, until hot but not boiling. Add sugar, if desired, and stir until dissolved. Strain cider through a sieve and serve, garnished with orange slices.

Winter Solstice Potluck
Tuesday, December 21 from 5 to 7 pm. The Family Centre is hosting the final potluck of the year. Celebrate the holiday season with friends and neighbours by sharing festive foods and family fun.

UVic Vikes Christmas Tree Sale
Once again, the UVic cross country team will be selling Island-grown Christmas trees at the stadium from December 2 - 19, weekdays 12 - 6pm, weekends 10am - 6pm. This annual fundraiser helps to provide scholarships, travel opportunities and equipment for the team. There will be a great selection of trees to choose from, with prices starting at $15.

Free Christmas Trees
There will be a few free Christmas trees available after December 19, when the University closes for the holidays. If you are interested, contact Sonya in the Family Centre.

Campus Security Cracks Down on Unlicensed Vehicles
A notice was sent out to each residence in Family Housing advising anyone owning a parked, unlicensed vehicle to have it removed or properly insured and licensed by Dec 1, or be subject to tow. Vehicles found to be leaking fluids may still be subject to tow regardless of insurance. This situation will be monitored on an ongoing basis from now on.

Thank you to the SWARM team of volunteers for their time, Peppers Foods for their ongoing support, and Paulette Francoeur for her submission to last month’s News & Views.

Family Housing Classifieds
I am wanting to buy at a reasonable price any used Magic Treehouse books and a Leap pad computer or any other type of computer/book interactive toy - they are for my daughter for Christmas so please call soon! Christine at 382-3635

One bedroom suite, available December 15. Walk to UVic, quiet, private. Contact Franceene Watson at 721-1120.

Congratulations to Aziza on the safe arrival of her new son!
Calendar Events

Youth Night Mondays
December 6 - "School of Rock" (rated PG). Come out and watch this funny movie with friends. Pizza, popcorn and drinks served!
December 13 - Jewelry Making (donations of $2 for materials appreciated, but not needed) Make awesome necklaces and bracelets - beads and supplies provided.
December 20 - Tie Dye Mania (FC will supply all materials)

Crafts with Christine
Most suitable for children ages 5 and up, but all are welcome. Childcare for siblings will most likely be provided.
Cost: $1 per child/$2 per family (appreciated but not needed)

Bookmaking
Come out and make your very own book... put together the pages, dream up the story, and draw the pictures.
Step One - Saturday December 4 - 1:00 - 3:30
Step Two - Saturday December 11 - 1:00 - 3:30

You Be The Teacher
Saturday, December 18 - 1:00 - 3:30
This is every child’s chance to teach the rest of the group what he/she does best! Christine will help with songs, dances, crafts, tricks, jokes, magic, games... you name it! Call Sonya by December 11 if you need special supplies.

Paper Mache
Step One - Monday, December 27 - 6:00 - 8:30
Step Two - Wednesday, December 29 - 6:00 - 8:30
This is a fun and messy craft and Christine will help the kids make their very own paper mache project. In step one they will design and make it and step two they will decorate it.

Community Kitchen
December 14. If anyone would like to participate or share the work of making a tasty meal let Rosie know by calling 472-4062. So far we've made borscht, chow mein, chili and sushi. Food ideas are always welcome. Bring your appetite and culinary creativity.

Parent Time
Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 - a time to discuss concerns, ideas, information and strategies in an informal and supportive way.

Rebecca from Young Parents Support Network
Thursday, December 2, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Homework Club
Thursdays, 4 - 5:30pm. Kaitlin, Young, Billy and Anna are high school students who are trained peer tutors and helpers who would like to help your school-aged child with homework such as reading, science or math. Games and crafts and lots of laughs are a part of the Homework Club experience, too. Look for their bio in the January issue of News & Views!

Free Holiday Events
Wreathmaking @ Francis / King regional park
December 5th, Sunday noon - 3 p.m. (drop-in): For centuries people have used forest greenery to mark the winter solstice and celebrate Christmas. Add warmth to your home by making a wreath. We'll supply materials and instructions – you supply creativity! Bring a mug for hot apple cider, and clippers if you have them. Donations welcome (proceeds to a local food bank). Meet at the Nature Centre off Munn Road. All ages.

Lighted Ships Parade
December 10, 7:00pm, join us on Ship Point to view the Lighted Ships Parade. The route starts at Wharf Street Marina, then past Ship Point. In front of the Empress Hotel and Undersea Garden then up to Fisherman’s Wharf and back to Wharf Street Marina. Call for more info 250-383-8326, or e-mail tlarson@victoriaharbour.org

Public Library Christmas Crafts
December 11. We'll supply the materials and sample decorations, and you provide the enthusiasm and imagination! Make something to hang on our tree or a special holiday decoration to take home. For families with children ages 3 and up. Call your local Branch for more info.

Blethering Place Christmas Dinner
FREE Christmas Breakfast and Christmas Dinner for those in need served December 25th from about 8am – 3pm, 206-2250 Oak Bay Ave. Phone for more info: 250-598-1413.

Pearks Arena Free Family Christmas Skate
December 10 and 17, 5:30-6:50pm and Dec 14 and 21 5:45-7:05. Music, prizes, games and gingerbread cookies. Admission is free with a non-perishable food donation for the Food Bank. Skate rentals available for $1.50.

Swan Lake Programs
Wreathmaking. Tails and Tales. Around and/or Up. Here's Looking at You. and Papermaking are some of the events in December at the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. Cost minimal, call Ann Scarfe at 479-0211 for more details.

The Good Food Box
The Good Food Box Program provides local produce when available, organic produce when affordable, in $5, $10, and $15 boxes. Typical box items include potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, apples, oranges, bananas and additional items added for variety.

For information, please call or come by the Family Centre. Next order date is Wednesday Dec 8 with pick up at the Family Centre Thursday Dec 1 – just in time for the holidays!