

Little Drummer Boy grows up, beats his own melody for life

HALEY EPPERLY

Contributing Writer

After playing the role of "The Little Drummer Boy" in a school play, Christopher DelBene, freshman, was hooked. "When I'm playing I don't think about anything but playing. It's exhilarating," DelBene said.

DelBene is 100% Italian and comes from a close knit family that includes a Blue Heeler Cross named Ore. His parents have a large Italian flag in their bedroom and pasta and meatballs are a common meal in the DelBene household. His grandparents on his mom's side live in Italy.

"My grandma makes calazone every time she visits. It's like a pizza folded in half but a million times better," he said.

The move from Poughquag, New York to West Linn in third grade was difficult for DelBene. He had to leave behind his friends and family because of his dad's promotion to vice-president of Welchallyn. He misses the



Christopher DelBene, freshman, perfects his art during some spare time. The aspiring musician has played the drums since sixth grade and has had the opportunity to show off his skills at a jazz festival.

Photo by Haley Epperly

warm weather and bright lights of New York.

"New York is a lot busier than West Linn, but the people in New York are snobbier. I wish I could pick up my friends and family in West Linn and drop them in New York," DelBene said.

Some other hobbies DelBene enjoys are playing

Wii, ping pong and jumping on his trampoline.

He tried tennis for the first time in New York in first grade and started lessons in sixth grade. "It's action packed and you get to hit a ball really hard. It's like ping pong, but life size."

There were a few factors that sparked DelBene's

interest in playing the drums.

"A long time ago my uncle was an extreme drummer and he started teaching me how to play," he said. But DelBene showed an interest in drums long before that. "When I was five or six I made a drum out of a jar and balloon."

Although he loves the drums, there are some other instruments he would like to play and hasn't had the chance to yet. "I've always wanted to try the bagpipes," DelBene said.

DelBene's drum lessons began with teacher Charles Neil in sixth grade and he has continued to study with him for the past four years. He has a lesson once a week in Tualatin.

Lessons, which he describes as extremely intense, start with snare drum solos and include marching band lessons, Latin and rock grooves and soloing.

At home, he plays songs on his Pearl drum set such as "Crank Dat Soulja Boy

Remix" by Travis Barker. He practices nearly every day at home. "A lot of the time I'm not really practicing what my teacher tells me to. I like to make up my own stuff," DelBene said.

He tried piano lessons once when he was younger, but decided they were boring. Neither of his parents play an instrument.

"My mom is musically challenged." He has two younger sisters, Danielle and Jacqueline, who also attempted the piano but quit because they did not like practicing.

DelBene played the drums in band throughout his three years of middle school at Rosemont. He performed at the Mt. Hood Community College Jazz Festival in eighth grade.

Fine Arts Assembly showcases talents of student artists

Fine Arts Assembly

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People tend to associate a theatrical auditorium with professional performances and this may heighten the quality of their behavior.

The stage is a focal point for the audience, and with the seating arrangement, students are less likely to converse with their neighbor. The sound system also benefits performers, and the overall atmosphere helps capture the audience's attention.

This year the assembly was held during second period on Dec. 14. Teachers signed up to attend the event with their classes. The auditorium holds about 600 people so there was not enough room to accommodate everyone. The majority of students actually missed the live performance since there was only one showing. To give students who were not able to attend the assembly a chance to view the performance, a recording of it was shown the following Monday and Wednesday.

In the future, the Fine Arts Department hopes to hold more than one performance to give everyone a chance to experience it live. Ideas for how to organize multiple showings while being aware of preserving regular class time have been discussed, and with the start of relocating the event, the Fine Arts Assembly is moving in the right direction.

Teachers reveal pet peeves: students be warned!

LEXI WELP

Staff Reporter

Late Work. Texting during class. Not cleaning up after themselves. Overlong bathroom breaks. Students not being where they are supposed to be. Teachers have many pet peeves.

Students usually try to avoid upsetting teachers, but there are some things that students just do; behaviors that tend to agitate teachers for no apparent reason. Often a teacher's pet peeve is rather obvious and easy to avoid. There are also common pet peeves that teachers share, for example, when students line up at the door before the bell rings, or when students forget to push in their chairs.

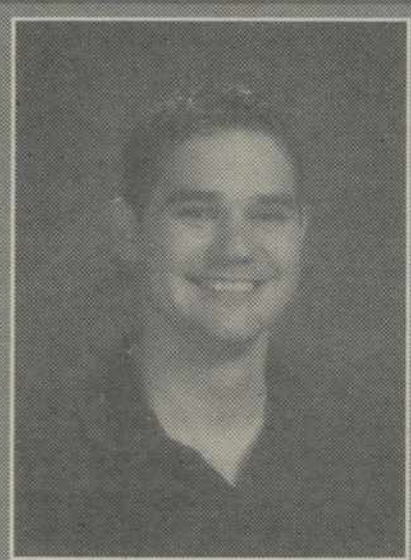
"My pet peeves include lying, copying homework in class from other students, and papers with no names," Meagn Keys, English teacher, said. "I have maybe taken a couple homework assignments away from students this year, nothing big."



Meagn Keys, English teacher, has no sympathy for cheaters and they suffer accordingly.

Cheating and lying has consequences in Keys' class. If caught cheating in her class, a student will have whatever they are working on (usually a test or quiz) taken away and will receive no credit. The student in question will then have a conference with Keys (and depending on how serious the matter is, their parents too) so that their actions can be discussed.

When asked what their biggest pet peeve is relating



Jeff Bilyeu, Chemistry teacher, despises the maddening sound of gum bubbles popping. Don't even think about negotiating for a better grade either.

to school teachers had many different responses. The most common pet peeves teachers had were things involving students chewing gum, and having poor or ugly attitudes during class.

"My main pet peeves are students whining to get grades changed from a B+ to an A-, and students making gum popping noises. The worst is noisy gum popping whiners," Jeff Bilyeu, Chemistry teacher said.

"Sure I've kicked people



Jessica Murray, Fine Arts teacher, prefers a pristine whiteboard. The artistic efforts of students are wasted on her.

out," Bilyeu said, when addressing what he has done to gum poppers in the past. According to Bilyeu, while he has changed grades from B+ to A's, he does give his class a warning about what his pet peeves are.

Jessica Murray, Fine Arts teacher, has an unusual



Todd Jones, Social Studies teacher, would rather have his students arrive on time. Heaven help those who block him in the hallway.

school-related pet peeve, one that most students might never even think about.

"My biggest pet peeve is definitely students doodling

and tagging the white board," Murray said. "It's a waste of markers. I have to take the time to erase it, and it's distracting. It is a seemingly harmless form of graffiti, but it drives me nuts."

Tardiness is usually not acceptable in most classes. Todd Jones, social studies teacher, includes it as one of his pet peeves. Complaining or whining is a pet peeve shared by several teachers as is students standing in the



Ann Breyne, English teacher, despises with a fiery passion over worn phrases. Her scorn also extends to avid and inappropriate text messagers.

middle of the hallways talking and blocking passages.

"I hate it when people say '24-7' about something they couldn't possibly be doing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I also dislike when people say, 'those ones.' It is those. Ones is not necessary," Ann Breyne, English, journalism and photography teacher, said. "My newest pet peeve is people texting during a play or movie. Please, put away your cell phones!"