



Wilson High School sound engineers record and mix their own music.
(Post photo by Janet Goetze)

Sound engineering class gives Wilson HS students another outlet for music

By Janet Goetze
The Southwest Portland Post

Nick Caldwell, Wilson High School's band director, wanted to give students an outlet for music, whether they could read notes or not. The solution he found, with the help of volunteers, is a class in sound engineering.

He has about 40 students, evenly divided between two classes, working at keyboards linked to computer screens that are part of the Pro Tools program, used in professional digital audio work.

The students, all juniors and seniors, have been exploring how to produce sounds and rhythms on the equipment, then record and digitally mix music. Caldwell also is teaching them music theory.

"That's so we can improvise better music," said Kyle Sautter, a senior who plays trumpet in Wilson's symphonic and jazz bands.

"By the end of the year," Caldwell said, "we'll probably have a CD out. At least, that's the goal."

In addition, he wants to prepare interested students for the music tech program at Portland Community College. Some also may seek an internship at a local recording studio, he said.

Some students are drawn to the technical aspects of the class and some like the computer science, Caldwell said.

Chase Jorgenson, a junior who hasn't studied music, is taking the class to learn more about it.

"I thought the process of making music was interesting -- how all the different sounds come together," Jorgenson said.

Senior Allen Golberg said, "I've never done anything music-wise but this seemed interesting and a way to see how it's done the modern way."

Caldwell has an entertainment industry professional, Bruce McCleave, helping him develop the curriculum and work on the equipment with students.

McCleave, whose daughter is a Wilson freshman, heard about Caldwell's plans from a parent at Robert Gray Middle School.

He got his start at a high school in

Denver where students were bused to a facility for cultural arts, McCleave said. He worked with equipment that gave him the background to become a production manager for nationally known entertainers.

"I learned a lot in a program like this," McCleave said, "and I wanted to give back, if I could."

McCleave put Caldwell in touch with Guitar Center, which provided a studio package with 11 Pro Tools programs, the industry standard in digital audio work stations.

"They gave me a lot of equipment for a reduced price," Caldwell said.

A Seattle relative of a student donated additional used equipment that Caldwell expects to use next semester as the classes progress.

Dave Pakula, a Rieke Elementary School parent who has taught a recording class at Portland Community College, recently gave the students a tutorial on sound waves and microphone placement to achieve desired effects.

A low note, for instance, may travel 25 feet. The sound waves will bounce around in a small room but will resonate differently in a larger room, Pakula said.

Dynamic microphones, which resemble a large cigar, are hardy devices that can be used in many circumstances, Pakula said.

A condenser microphone, usually placed on a stand, has a larger head and is more sensitive than a dynamic microphone. It gives good aural detail for acoustic instruments, said Pakula.

The sound engineering class is taught in a windowless, former storage room off the school cafeteria which Caldwell and principal Brian Chatard transformed into a studio last summer.

Jack Williams, a junior who plays trumpet in the symphonic band, elected to take the class to explore the possibilities of electronic music.

He and Kyle Sautter wore headphones to work together at a keyboard, checking the computer screen to determine if they wanted to change settings to alter the sounds they were producing.

Williams also noted that the electronic set-up enables one musician to play as a quartet. "One person can record four parts," he said, "then play them back at the same time."

Capitol Highway project back on the table

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

A new Portland transportation income tax proposed by Mayor Charlie Hales and City Commissioner Steve Novick would generate approximately \$47 million per year. Portland City Council is expected to vote on the new tax sometime in December.

Half of that money would go toward street maintenance and the other half would be dedicated to safety-oriented projects. Sidewalks and bicycle lanes along major arterials, for instance.

According to Mark Lear, with the Portland Bureau of Transportation, the new income tax would cover half of a revised (and revived) \$10 million Capitol Highway project (Taylors Ferry Road to Garden Home Road), including sidewalks on one side only, and bike lanes along the climbing side.

According to Lear, the remaining \$5 million would be paid for by system development charges.

For comparison, the cost of the same project with sidewalks and bike lanes

on both sides was estimated at \$21.9 million, for approximately one linear mile.

One of the reasons for such a high cost of construction is containing stormwater.

Retired city environmental engineer Al Iverson gave a fascinating PowerPoint presentation last month which included video of water streaming down the same stretch of Capitol Highway, showing a variety of directions of drainage.

Iverson said he was concerned that City environmental engineers are considering only the highway itself, and not the surrounding 82 acre watershed.

Lear, who had seen the presentation, agreed that this holistic approach to rebuilding Capitol Highway would keep water draining properly, because unlike the East Side, the existing storm sewer system in Southwest is incomplete.

The main problem in Southwest is the soil structure, said Iverson. A 143-foot test well revealed layer after layer of clay soils and no water. A similar test well dug in Southeast in the Lents area was dramatically different, with a variety of layers of soft soil and gravel and ground water readily available.



4455 SW Scholls Ferry Rd
Portland Oregon 97225

Family Dentistry • Sedation

Financing available through Care Credit

Dr. Steven Little
(503)291-0000
fearfreedental.com

Like us on Facebook



(w)here inc.
Real Estate

Elaine Yoder
Principal Broker

(503) 956-0222 cell

www.where-inc.com
portlandurbanhomes.com

Where experience matters

Parker Realty, Inc.



Capitol Hill Farmhouse
\$499,000

Charming 1904 Multnomah Village farmhouse – first time on the market in over 42 years. Perched high above the road on a beautiful, private .73 acre lot zoned R2. Perspective buyers should verify possible uses

with City of Portland. This home is truly Impeccable inside and out. The second floor master suite features an attached private bath and home office or possible sitting room. Enjoy the inviting private deck opening from main floor and the manicured yard and gardens. Detached double garage.

The inventory of houses for sale in the Portland Metro area remains at historic lows. High demand for homes in our area coupled with low interest rates and lack of homes for sale translates to higher prices! If you are thinking of selling contact us today for a free market analysis.

503-977-1888 • 7830 SW 35th Ave., Portland, OR
www.parkerrealtydx.com



Jeff Parker
Your Neighborhood Realtor Since 1980

