



*Kathryn Cobbler, Parent  
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*"It all depends on how we  
raise them...Beautiful Tone,  
beautiful heart"*

-Shin'ichi Suzuki

## Greetings Suzuki Parents!

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had a great start to the new school year! In diving into my regular teaching schedule, I have been reminded of some of the fundamental principles of our method. In *Nurtured By Love*, Dr. Suzuki talks about how talent isn't born, but fostered through a nurturing environment. As he recounts how a child learns to speak Japanese, "a child's life develops on its own accord", each at their own pace. As a Suzuki teacher, I feel privileged to be able to aid in fostering ability in the students of our community. As Suzuki teachers, we not only get to work with our students, but to develop close partnerships with our colleagues, parents as *Home Teachers*. Though we are given the task of teaching new concepts and fueling the learning process, it is *you*, the Home Teachers that are in the trenches, practicing with your children on the good, and *not so good practice days!* Without this constant effort, the work done in the lesson would not

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have nearly the amount of impact. In creating Talent Education, Dr. Suzuki's "aim was to design a pedagogical method that produced no dropouts." Rooted in the belief that each child can develop "wonderfully...depending on how they are fostered." As you and your family get back into a Fall routine,

here are some ways that may ease the transition:  
**Commit to a Set Practice Schedule**

After coming back from the summer months, it is always good to reevaluate life schedules to find the best time to commit to a daily practice routine.

### **Set Realistic Practice Goals**

With each new year there come new commitments and priorities. Communicating with your private music teacher about practice goals will keep everyone on track.

### **Attend Musical Concerts and Recitals in the Community**

We are so fortunate to live in a city with such a rich musical culture. Attending a musical performance serves as a great source of inspiration in practicing!

### **Keep Open Communication with your Private Music Teacher**

When all parts of the Suzuki Triangle are working together, that is when a child's musical development flourishes. Keeping your private music teacher abreast of issues in the home practice will allow you to work together to find the best solution.

As you continue to develop a musical environment for your children, always know that as teachers, we salute you and appreciate the work that you do! After all, it is in the home where the learning process begins: children learn to crawl, walk, speak, and "*smile* from their parents".