

# Avoca orchestra teacher hits a career high note

SUBMITTED BY AVOCA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 37

Last month, Avoca West Elementary School orchestra teacher Nancy Magill was recognized as the Outstanding Public School Teacher by the Illinois American String Teacher Association. This prestigious honor is awarded annually to one orchestra educator in Illinois that has achieved or maintained excellence in their program through the use of innovative teaching techniques and creative connections with the community.

Magill has been teaching orchestra in public schools for 37 years and started her position at Avoca West in 1999. She received her master's in music from Northwestern University and has extensive experience teaching both Suzuki and traditional strings, which brings a mastery to the program at Avoca that is evident whenever you hear her students play.

Throughout her time at Avoca, she has had the



Seated at the piano, Magill accompanies students at one of Avoca's sizzling strings performances.

opportunity to inspire students starting as early as first grade, many of which continue on a lifetime journey with their instruments.

"Her students are beautifully set up and they perform with such technical precision and accuracy," said Becca Oppenheim, a former student of Magill's who nominated her and is now a strings teacher. "Her young musicians adore her and they strive for excellence because of her high expectations."

Inspiring this type of commitment to learning an instrument requires a

very personal approach to teaching and a never ceasing passion for the power of music. This award is timely, as Magill prepares to retire from Avoca at the end of this school year. She will join a long list of exemplary strings teachers including fellow Avoca instructor, Mary Rudzinski, who received the award in 2007.

Magill was presented with the Outstanding Public School Teacher by the Illinois American String Teacher Association Jan. 26 in Peoria in conjunction with the Illinois Music Educators Conference.



Nancy Magill, orchestra teacher at Avoca West Elementary School, was recognized by the Illinois American String Teacher Association as an Outstanding Public School Teacher. Magill is retiring at the end of this year. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

## New Trier invites locals to Winter Carnival

SUBMITTED BY NEW TRIER  
HIGH SCHOOL

Local residents, friends, and children of all ages are invited to New Trier High School's 24th Annual Winter Carnival, during which the entire school will transform into a carnival ground with activities, prizes, food, and much more. The event is hosted by the New Trier senior class and benefits their Habitat for Humanity project, which involves building homes for local, underserved families through physical labor and fundraising.

The family-friendly opportunity to support a good cause will take place 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, at the Winnetka Cam-

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