

# LIFESTYLES



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The Peninsula Gateway is interested in publishing Lifestyles stories of general interest to the peninsula region. If you have a tip, please contact Callie White at 253-853-9224.

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SECTION D

## PYO BEGINNING STUDENTS PREP FOR THEIR FIRST CONCERT

With a piece of licorice for inspiration, Drew Fields, 10, settles into orchestral practice at Harbor Covenant Church Tuesday evening. Fields is one of 15 students in Karla Timmerman-Epperson's class that will debut their musicianship at the Peninsula Youth Orchestra's Winter Concert on Sunday.



# Musical Youth

The violinists stay united in their execution of the popular "Can Can" with the help of sheet music, right, and the direction of their instructor, Karla Timmerman-Epperson, below.



### WANT TO GO?

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra will hold its Winter Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25 at Harbor Covenant Church on Gustafson Drive. For more information, call 253-857-6062.

STORY  
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Karla Timmerman-Epperson wears a bright red shirt and bright red lipstick. When her string students come into class, they get a piece of bright red licorice. ♦ By all accounts, Timmerman-Epperson is herself a splash of bright color into the Peninsula Youth Orchestra. The newest member of the local group's staff, she is in charge of teaching and conducting the two youngest classes. ♦ "She's just got a great atmosphere," said Bonnie Hampton, one of the directors of PYO. "She's got them (her students) excited — it's because she's excited for them." ♦ That's a feeling seconded by parents. ♦ "The children just love her," said Bob Stone, father of Geoffrey, 16, of Orchard Heights. "It's a true blessing." ♦ Timmerman-Epperson joined PYO in October after retiring from the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra. This weekend she will guide her students through their debut at the PYO Winter

### PYO'S SIXTH YEAR MEANS MORE STUDENTS, MORE VIOLINS AND A NEW TEACHER

Concert on Sunday. ♦ This will be the first time for many of them to put on "penguin clothes," as Timmerman-Epperson calls the black-and-white duds, stand in front of their family and peers and a roomful of strangers, pull the bow across the strings and hope that the finger-gearing they practiced will override the adrenaline their nerves are giving them. ♦ "I'm nervous," said Mallory Salisbury, a 9-year-old Artondale student. Her words are belied by her giggle and broad smile. "I'm excited!" ♦ Mallory isn't the only one. Her classmates — there are 12 today, but 15 in all — all register a combination of enthusiasm and apprehension. ♦ Mostly, though, the kids, who are all aged 9 to 11, are just plain energetic. Some turn to smile at their watching parents or resist their bows or twiddle with their music stands in what passes for downtime between songs, or when their teacher tunes up a student's violin. ♦ "I've dropped my bow like five times and I am not even kidding," Amanda Robinson, 10, an Artondale student, told Mallory. Luckily she hadn't dropped her brand new violin. ♦ Timmerman-Epperson is unfazed by the skittery-kid energy. After years of teaching strings in Olympia and Bethel schools and the University of Puget Sound, not to mention conducting two youth symphonies with the Tacoma Youth Symphony, she is used to kids' needs. ♦ She is