

# NEWS

## Johnston slides toward success

*Madison Junior Cat Johnston's talent on the trombone recognized in Portland's Honor Band*

By Macey Pine, Staff Writer

Catriona (Cat) Johnston's interest in music sparked at Roseway Middle School where her dad taught music classes. She was always encouraged to participate in and learn about music by her family. And now, she says she is excited to play trombone in Honor Band for the opportunity to play with other students from all over Portland.

When she's not playing trombone or doing homework, she plays in her own band called Cat and Honey. They play alternative rock with Cat singing and writing songs for the band. Cat says she enjoys writing songs because "writing songs is a good way to get things off my chest after a bad day, kind of like a diary." Cat also started playing the guitar two years ago and started producing solo songs. She hopes to have an album out soon.

Her musical endeavors don't stop there. Cat works at My Voice Music, a nonprofit organization based in Portland that engages youth in music and performance in order to promote self-esteem, social skills and emotional expression. She took classes with the program when she was 8 to 13 years old, and decided she wanted to help teach children without access how to write and create their own songs to better develop their music talents. "The program helps kids talk about what they're going through instead of lashing out," Cat says. She says the program isn't only

helping others but helping her grow as a teacher and a person.

For college, Cat would like to attend NYU. She would ultimately like to play in a Broadway pit band when she gets older, or anything surrounding her love for music. "I use success to push me at my lowest points and if something doesn't work out I use that to push myself" Cat says. "It's important to remember the positives first before seeking out the negative side of things."



## A family musician (patiently) tries to pass it on

*A mom shares her love of music with her son*

By Gavin MacGregor, Staff Writer

Michelle MacGregor has always been a fan of music since she was

woodwinds