

# BIG or LITTLE

Musicians in orchestra and harp ensemble give gifts and make friends

One quick step at a time, both Bigs and Littles walked to orchestra with an excited look on their faces. They placed their presents on the table and searched for the ones bearing their names, and when they finally found them, they quickly opened them to find fun surprises.

Orchestra members participated in Bigs and Littles gift exchanges every year, but for the first time, they didn't wait to reveal whose Big was whose — they knew from day one.

"I love Bigs and Littles because it's brought me closer to my fellow classmates," senior Annalee Nelson said. "This year I got another harpist, and it's non-secretive so we've grown much closer, and it's given us a reason to bond and talk."

Others agreed with Nelson that Bigs and Littles gave them a valuable opportunity.

"Bigs and Littles is a fun and great way to meet and get to know other orchestra students that I would otherwise not have gotten to know," senior Austin Martin said.

The activity wasn't specific to the student's own orchestra. Instead, it was spread out between orchestras, so the students could get a Big or Little in another class.

"Bigs and Littles is neat because it spans all the orchestras and allows for more interaction between all of us," senior Julia Schoos said. "The candy is an added bonus, of course."

Usually, a Big was an upperclassman, and a Little an underclassman, so the gift exchange made room for mingling between the two groups.

"Doing Bigs and Littles means that there is someone in another orchestra that I can talk to," sophomore Stephane Massa said.

The friends made through Bigs and Littles were ones that students trusted to share their feelings with.

"I like how Bigs and Littles lets you get to know the underclassmen a little better," senior Olivia Lynch said. "I enjoy how it makes everyone feel more included, like a family, instead of having everyone separated by class periods."