

SPRING FEVER REACHES NEW TEMPERATURES
Annual Vanguard MS/HS Talent Show

Music Teacher Courtney Leaidicker made her Vanguard debut on the perfect note. As Middle and High School students filled the multi purpose room for the annual Talent Show, there was a lot of excited chatter syncopated with some technical speak. As the lights dimmed and the crowd prepared to be dazzled, one student opened the show with maturity and eloquence.

A cosmic background on the stage echoed the school's logo, and presented a suitable parallel: these students *are* stars! Free of flashy showmanship, but with creative and individualized costumes and performances, students captured the essence of the songs they sang. In many ways, the students' performances were more powerful and intriguing than the artists who originated the music.

The vocal ranges of the students and the potpourri of talent, choice and appreciation for music was refreshingly reminiscent of the diversity among and between Vanguard kids. While one student chose a soft and melodic Lee Ann Rimes song, it took no more than applause and introduction to transition into Linkin Park, Lou Bega or The Beach Boys. Overall, the commitment to performing was astounding, and reflective of how open a personality can be when it is not consumed by a fear of failure or intimidation by an audience. When we as adults take the time to let children teach us, we learn so much about human nature; that *is* quite a talent.