

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Wesley McCune has turned his lifelong interest and passion in music to inspire, teach and motivate Alexandria Public School students at John Adams Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, for the past 18 years as a music teacher at John Adams Elementary School, Wesley McCune has touched the lives of nearly 600 children each year; and

WHEREAS, he established the Orff Ensemble 13 years ago, believing that music and the joy of opening minds through music could have a beneficial and lasting effect on the lives of school children, particularly those with lower test scores, behavior and attendance problems; and

WHEREAS, the Orff Ensemble is composed of a group of students in grades three, four and five who meet every day before school to practice and play and has an average membership of 20 students who year after year demonstrate improvement in all aspects of their academic lives; and

WHEREAS, the Orff Ensemble is named for Carl Orff, a 20th century composer who created a system of teaching music to children and combines many musical forms into a tapestry of sounds and movement; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication and hard work of Wesley McCune and the students of the Orff Ensemble, the group has been invited to perform at the Kennedy Center for the past four years and have also recorded live in concert; and

WHEREAS, Wesley McCune and the students of the Orff Ensemble have brought great acclaim and praise for the music program of the Alexandria Public Schools and demonstrated that passion, love and dedication are truly the cornerstones of education; and

WHEREAS, Wesley McCune is the recipient of many awards, including the Chamber's Excellence in Education Award, the United Way All Star Award and the EAA Whole Village Award, and it is his love of music and the impact it has had on the children of John Adams Elementary School that should be recognized as his highest award;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize and thank

"WESLEY MCCUNE"

for his ongoing efforts to educate, inspire and teach the children of Alexandria, thereby improving the lives of hundreds of young people in Alexandria now and in the future as well as the members of the:

"ORFF ENSEMBLE"

for their dedication, hard work and the inspiration they provide for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12th day of June 2007.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk