Anna Z **Extracurricular**

I do a lot of extracurricular activities including sports, music, and volunteering, but one of my favourite activities to do is play the flute. I started playing it back in Grade 6 after my elementary school music teacher told me that I would be good at it. When my Mom encouraged me to join band in Grade 6 and I had to choose an instrument, flute was the obvious choice.

We considered renting a flute, but once I had seen it, I knew I wasn’t going to change my mind, so we bought it right away. I had played the recorder in elementary school, so when I first assembled my flute, I was surprised by how long it was. I was so confused by the number of different keys it had and how I was supposed to blow into it. I had my flute for a couple of weeks before Grade 6 started. My parents thought it would be a good idea to give me a head start on how to play, so they signed me up for private lessons.

On my first day of lessons, my teacher first showed me how to put my flute together, and how to blow into the head joint. It took me a little while to figure out how to make a noise, but eventually, I got it. After a couple of weeks, I could play my first note, an F! I continued to play with this teacher until Grade 7. With practice and encouragement from my family, I began to excel during my lessons and in band.

A year later (in Grade 7), we found out that my flute teacher was unavailable. She was the only flute teacher at that music school, so now we had to find a different teacher to continue my lessons. We called a couple other music schools to see if they had a flute teacher with time to teach me. We eventually found a teacher a couple of weeks into September that year and I’ve been with her ever since. My flute teacher is so nice, and she is very helpful. In June of this year, I played two songs at the recital. One of them was a duet with my teacher playing the piano and me playing the melody on the flute. The second song I played was a solo. The photo above is me after I finished playing that recital. I really love playing the flute and I hope that I can continue to improve playing it in the future!