With proper care you can have many years of trouble free enjoyment from your instrument. You should perform maintenance on your instrument on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis. Some maintenance can be done by you and some left only to trained professionals. If you have any questions not covered here please ask your teacher. We hope the following tips will help you keep your instrument in top condition.

**Daily Care**

1. Always keep your instrument in its case when not in use.

2. Avoid rapid temperature changes. If you bring your violin from a cold area into a warm area leave it in its case, to change temperature slowly, because cracking of the finish or wood can occur. A good rule-of-thumb is not to leave your violin any place that you would not like to be. So don't leave it in extreme hot or cold environments.

3. After you are finished playing remove any rosin and hand oils from the instrument with a soft cloth. Don't let rosin buildup on your violin. Remove it after each time you play. It is very difficult to remove if left on your instrument for any length of time.

4. Keep an eye on the bridge. As you tune the instrument the strings tend to pull the top of the bridge toward the fingerboard. If the bridge tips too much it will fall over. This can break the bridge or even crack the top. If the bridge falls the soundpost inside the violin may also fall over. The back side of the bridge (side toward the tailpiece) should be at a right angle to the top and the feet of the bridge should touch the top uniformly. If your bridge tilts take your violin to a shop and have them show you how to straighten it. Its not hard to do but unless it is done correctly you could break it.

5. Be sure that your pegs turn freely with minimum pressure toward the peg box. Over time the pegs will go out of round and start to slip. If this happens they will need to be refitted for proper operation. During dry conditions they may shrink, causing slipping. In humid conditions they may swell causing them to stick. Never force a peg into the peg box if it slips and if it is stuck don't force it either. You could break the peg or the peg box under these conditions. Take your instrument to a luthier and have them correct the problem.

*If you are unsure about anything, ask your teacher.*