

## Just a “Note” from Ms. Hall in Music class in the Fall

**Kindergarten** music in September focused on “Get to Know You” songs, keeping the steady beat through movement activities, and warm-up exercises for their voice. We learned how to echo certain pitches and use the microphone with our speaking, whispering and singing voices. In October, we used animal puppets to represent high and low sounds, fast and slow sounds and loud and quiet sounds. We sang spider, fall and pumpkin songs. Ms. Williams’ classes and Ms. Lisa’s class learned a line dance to the song “Monster Mash”. In November we marched to patriotic music and played simple patterns on our hand drums. Students walked, skipped, hopped and danced to our fun music. The Kindergarten program will be in June during their music class time.

**First grade** music in September focused on rhythms and beats. Students used rhythm sticks, drums and bean bags to keep steady beats in music. They were introduced to quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. The names of these notes are “Ta, Sh, TiTi, and Tika Tika” The students read rhythms and played on their instruments. They also moved around the room representing each rhythm in patterns. We sang “Get to Know You” and fall songs, too. In October, we had auditions for our December 10<sup>th</sup> program. Students used the microphone to read lines from the musical. Students will bring home the lines they will say in November. Please help your child memorize his/her lines. There will not be any costumes but we are looking for about 8 hard hats (small) to borrow. We will send home a sheet of needed props in November. We also sing patriotic songs in honor of Veterans’ Day. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Hall at 279-5269.

**Second grade** music in September focused on rhythm vs. beat. We performed clapping and moving activities in groups and partners. We sang songs from Africa and Mexico using other languages. The students designed their own patterns using rhythm instruments and then performed them in class. Students read music using quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. They read them as “Food, Cheese, Milk Shake and Piece of Pizza” The students created an 8-measure rhythmic composition. In October we focused on dynamics and expression of music. Students would match the Italian word to the meaning and symbol. (P= piano=quiet, F=forte=loud) October songs helped the students read the form of the music. (Verse and chorus/refrain/ ABAB/ ABA) We also used percussion instruments and our voices for sound effects in the songs. In November, we marched to patriotic music and sang songs in honor of Veterans’ Day. The second grade program will be Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions call Ms. Hall at 279-5269.

**Third grade** music in September focused on rhythm vs. beat. The students were introduced to their green books for the McGraw-Hill curriculum series. They read music and discussed notes, rests and values of each. In the book, they reviewed how to follow the verses and chorus, repeat signs, measures and other parts of vocal music reading. Warm-up and posture techniques were reviewed. In October, we focused on dynamics and expression of music. (P=quiet/Piano, F=loud/Forte, crescendo and decrescendo, PP/FF/MP/MF) The students created Spooky Radio Plays in groups and used instruments and voices as sound effects. The plays were taped and shared in music class. In November, the students reviewed and discussed Veterans' Day and the history behind the Star Spangled Banner. Patriotic songs were sung and history discussed for each song. The students also listened to Peter Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" and drew Veterans' Day pictures while listening to this exciting piece of music. The third grade classes including Ms. Aspery's class will have a program February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Hall at 279-5269.

**Fourth grade** music in September was a review of music vocabulary and concepts. (Beat, rhythm, tempo, measure, notes, rests) and why people use certain types of music in their lives. Warm-ups and note values were reviewed. The students were introduced to the purple 4<sup>th</sup> grade McGraw-Hill curriculum series. October's music classes were focused on the upcoming Veterans' Day Program. We discussed what a Veteran is and why we celebrate this day. Students had lessons on poetry in their regular classroom, then wrote their own poems. The themes focused on "Why I Love America" "Why I am Proud of Our Veterans" "What Veterans' Day Means to Me" They then illustrated their poems. These poems will be copied and bound and sent to some troops overseas. The Veteran's Day program was Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The students had two programs and both programs were amazing and heartfelt. Some students read their own poems to the audiences. The nine hand-bell players did a fabulous job letting the sound resonate through the gym. The 15 drum players kept the beat steady through each song of "Salute to the Military". All students shined as they honored our service men and women. The evening show was standing room only and there were not very many dry eyes as Connor Craig and his father Lieutenant Commander Craig played a beautiful version of "Taps". The students listened to Peter Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" and made thank you notes for Ms. Ernst, who accompanied us on the keyboard, for the Navy Color-Guard who presented the flag and for our trumpet players. The rest of November and December will be a recorder unit. If you have any questions, call Ms. Hall at 279-5269.

**Fifth grade** music in September was a review of music vocabulary and concepts. (Rhythm, melody, harmony, form, style, notation, expression, and tone color) Students worked on sight-singing notes on the staff using do, re, mi, fa, so la, ti, do. The students were introduced to the orange 5<sup>th</sup> grade McGraw-Hill curriculum series. Warm-ups are important for our singing ability and the students take turns daily being the warm-up director. We also have students leading rhythm/echo patterns with body percussion. Students created an ABCBA pattern in groups of three. They wrote the composition, created body percussion movements and performed the composition for the class, introducing the people in their group and their fall title. The students then took the group compositions and added three more measures. They took the rhythms and placed them on the treble clef staff in the Key of C. The students used a c-scale colored note glockenspiel to write their music. Dynamics were placed in the measures. The students will perform the compositions for the class independently. Students also reviewed music symbols, such as sharps, flats, fermatas, treble clef, measures, bar lines, and bass clef. In November, the students discussed the importance of Veterans' Day and studied the history of the War of 1812 and the Star Spangled Banner. The students also listened to Peter Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" and drew Veterans' Day pictures while listening to this exciting piece of music. The students have their final performance of their elementary career on May 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, call Ms. Hall at 279-5269.