

Hello Meadowbrook Community!

I hope everyone had restful and relaxing spring break! In general, I'm very happy to have some warmer weather back in the forecast. We can all just hope for the even warmer weather of summer to come soon now.

In March, the 5th graders were working on learning about both the treble clef staff and the bass clef staff. The treble clef staff was mostly review, but we used some tactics about figuring out the pitches on the treble clef staff and applied them to the pitches of the bass clef staff. Since returning from spring break, they have been introduced to a recorder project where they are tasked with performing some songs demonstrating their skills that they have developed.

The 4th graders also spent a fair amount of time reviewing the treble clef staff. We learned many different games and tactics to help us remember the pitches on the staff. They also had a project involving composing their own piece of music using the treble clef staff. Since returning from spring break, the 4th graders are also demonstrating their recorder knowledge similarly to the 5th graders. This is partially done through filming a song and partially done through performing a song just in front of me.

Before and a bit after spring break, our 3rd graders were studying a bit of classical music through the composer Bach. We analyzed some facts about Bach's life, as well as listened to some of his more famous pieces of music. In addition to learning about Bach, I also have been teaching some popular songs here and there to keep up their performance skills. We learned the song "The Locomotion", and we are about to dive into a choreography project involving the song "Singing In The Rain".

The 2nd graders were finishing up learning about the treble clef staff in March and demonstrating their knowledge on the subject. Since then, I've been doing a few songs here and there to keep up with their performing skills. One such song is "The Cat Came Back", which is one of my favorite songs to teach in 2nd grade. They will also be learning the song "Singing In The Rain", and sharing the choreography project with the 3rd graders.

Our 1st graders also finished up a more basic unit involving the treble clef staff where they were introduced to the concept. They completed an assessment on the subject before being let out for spring break. Since coming back, we've been learning a few songs that involve games to them, such as the song "Jennie Jenkins" and "Cobbler, Cobbler". This is a great way for the students to develop their singing skills, and it provides the students with an opportunity to have a little fun while doing so.

The kindergarteners have been hard at work putting their "Pajama Party!" concert together, which contains songs all about getting ready for bed. I have to say that this concert has been a blast to put together, and you can tell from the kindergarteners excitement that they can't wait to showcase their talents. Come see their hard work pay off on Wednesday, May 1st at 2:45pm. I want to clarify that this is the only concert at Meadowbrook without an evening performance because the students are very young and we don't want to overwhelm them.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you might have about our music program here at Meadowbrook. I will make all my best efforts to respond to you in a timely manner.

Mr. Brian Falk (bfalk@waukesha.k12.wi.us)