

Hello Meadowbrook Community!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and that your Holiday season has been off to an amazing start! As a musician my life is always busy every year with performing several different Holiday songs, but luckily some songs repeat through the years and I just need a refresher.

This past month the 5<sup>th</sup> graders were coming off of their amazing Veteran's Day program, and we have been diving into reviewing some rhythms. We began by reviewing how many beats certain rhythms take up through some games, and we are now discussing why rhythms are named certain ways. Because we are discussing the names, we are also talking about Time Signatures and what function they serve when reading music. I'm also hoping to start some recorder projects soon, so make sure that your child brings in their recorder from last year. Please contact me if you are unable to find your child's recorder or if you are new to the school this year.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been extremely hard at work preparing their "My Favorite Things About The Holidays" concert! I've been taking all the classes for extra music practices recently, and I'm really looking forward to what they have to showcase. Come see their hard work pay off on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been finishing up their unit on the 4 families of instruments. I was able to showcase several of instruments that I own myself, and I allowed several of the students to even try some of my instruments. I also emphasized the fact that they could perform the instruments themselves someday when they have the option to join Band, Choir, or Orchestra in middle and high school. After our unit we will be preparing a few of the more challenging songs from the Holiday sing-along that's occurring on December 21<sup>st</sup>. After break we will then be diving into our concert music that will have a Wild West theme to it.

Both our 1<sup>st</sup> graders and our Kindergarteners have been touching on a few different songs and the kindergarteners have been beginning to touch on the topic of tempo. We've also been looking into the story of "The Nutcracker", as I read to them the story and we performed various different songs using musical scarves and boomwhackers. For the rest of December, I usually try and focus on preparing the kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders for singing at the Holiday sing-along (December 21<sup>st</sup>). When we get back from winter break the 1<sup>st</sup> graders will be preparing their concert music that will have a Wild West theme, and the kindergarteners will focus on tempo and songs about animals. More information will come regarding the kindergarten concert's theme very soon.

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. Have an amazing holiday season, and enjoy the craziness!

Thank You!

Mr. Brian Falk

bfalk@waukesha.k12.wi.us