

Hello Meadowbrook Community!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends! I'm not one for really making new years resolutions, but for those of you who do, I hope that you stay persistent with your goals and make this an amazing year!

Our 5th Graders have just been wrapping up our unit on rhythms as we were reviewing how many beats certain rhythms/combinations take up. We then were also analyzing the actual names of rhythms and why they are named a particular way. For the remainder of the month I am hoping to showcase some instruments for the 5th graders to try in our "instrument petting zoo day". I normally don't let students use my personal instruments that I bring in to class, but on this day I allow them to try various different instruments to see if they find an interest in one of them. On Friday, January 25th, some musicians from North High School will also be coming in to perform for the 5th graders, as well as to answer any questions that they might have as they prepare for music options within middle and high school.

I am extremely proud of the concert that our 3rd and 4th graders put on last December! They worked very hard at putting all of the moving elements of the concert together and I believe that they were very successful at spreading some holiday cheer for everyone in the audience. This month our 4th graders will be ordering/bringing in recorders, as I hope to begin learning some recorder elements within class soon. Please see the note that was sent home with your child January 7th. I will also be covering a quick unit looking into the life and music of the composer Beethoven. Our 3rd graders have been reading and looking into the book "Ada's Violin", which talks about a poor village in Paraguay that creates instruments out of the garbage in the landfill of their town. In music, we've been looking at how homemade instruments that could be possibly made and what it means to get different pitches on a homemade instrument.

The 1st and 2nd graders have come back to the New Year with preparations for the concert on Wednesday, February 13th. We will be having a "Wild West" theme to our concert, with traditional cowboy songs and a few different modern songs with western elements to them. What's neat about these songs is that they tend to have phrases that people don't commonly speak with today, but it's fun to dissect their meaning and why cowboys might have said phrases like these. Come see their hard work pay off this February!

Our kindergarteners have been continuing looking into what I call the "musical opposites" through performing and listening to songs that are both fast/slow. As we wrap up on fast and slow, we will then be diving right into learning about highs/lows when listening and performing pitches in music. I will also be announcing details about the kindergarten concert coming up very soon. The concert isn't until May 1st, but I have a very fun theme picked out that will require some appropriately challenging work out of the kindergarteners.

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. I will also be discussing details and giving an answer about a 4th/5th musical happening at the PTA meeting this month (with details to students coming afterwards).

Thank You!

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