

Hello Meadowbrook Community!

Hopefully spring is coming soon, as I'm sure you are in the same boat as me with being done with this winter. I've never really liked winter too much, but there comes a point where I'm really done with the cold and am ready for some warmer weather.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been working on a variety of different things lately. First, we have been reviewing our recorder skills from last year, and have been advancing with some more challenging pieces of music. I've also been collecting their votes for the end of the year Celebration/Concert song selections. Some interesting selections were on the ballot, but I think what they chose will work suitably for the celebration. I've also begun reviewing the treble clef staff with them, and will be introducing the bass clef to them soon.

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have also started learning recorder this past month, and I do have to say that they have been doing so quite well. Both classes are really taking my instruction well and are treating the instrument with care to get a good sound. They are picking up on performing notes and songs quickly, and I'm very pleased with their progress. I've also recently been starting to review and expand upon their knowledge of the treble clef staff.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been finishing up their projects of the treble clef staff by composing their own songs. They then had some opportunities to practice their songs on colored xylophones. We have also spent a great deal of time with the treble clef staff by playing various different games to expand our knowledge.

I'm very proud of the hard work that both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders put into their concert this past month, especially considering all of the snow days that we had in preparation for the concert. After the concert we have also been looking at the treble clef staff, but we have been doing so by reading a music book series called "Freddie The Frog". Freddie lives on treble clef island, and the different locations on the island are helping the students understand where certain notes go. The students love listening to the stories, and their a much more fun way to learn musical concepts.

The kindergarteners have been finishing up with our last concept of musical opposites, which have been highs and lows. We explored this concept through singing/performing both highs and lows, and we also did a fair amount of listening for highs and lows. I also like taking the opportunity to perform on various different instruments for them to hear how smaller instruments produce higher sounds and bigger instruments produce lower sounds. From hear we are moving on to some concert preparations. The theme for their concert is going to be "Pajama Party", which contains songs about getting ready for bed. While the concert is a good ways away, I wanted to start early so that we are full prepared when it comes along.

Also, thank you for everyone who came and saw me during "Showcase Of Learning" night. I love when people stop on by to visit for the students to showcase their musical talents!

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.

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