

Hello Meadowbrook Community!

I hope everyone has enjoyed their Fall... because it looks like winter has already begun settling in and is here to stay. With the beginning of the snow falling, I know several people like to start listening to holiday music. Being a music teacher myself, I've been listening and preparing for the season for a while now. It's a good thing that I never really get tired of hearing Holiday music!

For the past month, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders were continuing to work hard on their Veteran's Day Program songs. These songs were challenging for them because they were more choral style pieces of music with a lot of words. I am very proud of all of their accomplishments at the Veteran's Day Program this year, and it was wonderful to celebrate with so many people in honoring our Veterans! Coming up, will begin diving into a deeper understanding of various different musical elements with particular focus first on dynamics.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have already been hard at work beginning to prepare for their Holiday concert on Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the concert this year is "My Favorite Things About The Holidays", with the title song being (of course) "My Favorite Things". It always feels a bit odd to start December Holiday music before Halloween, but I only have so much time to work with them and I have some pretty big ideas for the concert this year. Come hear all their hard work pay off coming up this Holiday season!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have recently begun diving into unit involving the four families of instruments. This is one of my favorite units to do because I get to bring a bunch of my instruments into the classroom to perform for everyone, and I also love having them try to perform on the instruments themselves. They get to know and understand why we place certain instruments into categories, as well as understand what types of ensembles or music groups have certain instruments within them. After we complete the instrument unit, we will be learning about the ballet "The Nutcracker", as well about the composer Tchaikovsky.

Both our 1<sup>st</sup> graders and our Kindergarteners have been readily at work learning about dynamics this month. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders began by reviewing what they had learned last year, and then we began expanding upon our knowledge by adding the terms Mezzo-Forte and Mezzo-Piano. The Kindergarteners were simply learning about Forte and Piano. Both grades were able to see and perform these dynamic levels through many different songs, games, and stories that made the learning both engaging and fun.

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. Hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving!

Thank You!  
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