



# Meadowbrook Music Class Newsletter



October 2020

Hello Meadowbrook Families,

I apologize for the delay of my October newsletter this month. As some of you may have heard from your children at home, I was out of school for two weeks recovering from appendicitis surgery. Because of those two weeks of absence (and how the specials schedule is setup this year), I ended up missing a bunch of classes while I was out. So, some classes are right on with my lesson plans, and some are now a bit behind. With that being said, I'm also doing much better now and am happy to be back at school teaching all of the kiddos!

I will say that it feels very strange to not be talking about any upcoming concerts and such, as normally 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders would be starting to prepare for a Veteran's Day program and our annual Holiday concert. But alas, we still have no concerts scheduled at any grade level this year to prevent convening of any large group gatherings. I also miss simply teaching in my classroom as teaching from a cart can be quite tiresome. We are all making do with the best that we can, and I'm hoping the students are enjoying the music experiences that they are getting in their classrooms during this crazy school year!

Be kind, and take care!

Mr. Falk

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## **What's Happening In Music Class? (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

**Most of what we are mainly covering is reviewing basic rhythms and how they fit into certain beat patterns. However, because I was out for two weeks, I have one 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class and a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class very far ahead in my plans. So, they have had the opportunity to explore some different Halloween songs and projects the extra week that I had with them. Mrs. Doolittle's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class got to explore my Mickey's Haunted Mouse project, in which we set different sound effects to an old Mickey Mouse cartoon. It's a project I normally would have done at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, but didn't get a chance to do because of us going virtual last spring. Hopefully, we can start exploring more complicated rhythms soon!**

### What's Happening In Music Class? (K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

**I actually didn't lose any time with the Kindergarteners, so they are still on a good track! We have continued exploring our voices and keeping a steady beat using some Fall activities. We will soon be exploring musical opposites, starting with dynamics (louds and softs). While I was out, I ended up missing both 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes and Mrs. Bartmann's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. So, those classes will soon be learning about/reviewing the rhythms of Ta, Ti-Ti, and Rest. During the extra week that I had with Mrs. Maurer's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class we performed various Halloween activities, as well as some creativity movement activities. One example of what we did was moving with plates to the song "Who Let The Dogs Out"!**

### 5 Easy Things To Do To Support Your Child In Music

- 1. SING TO YOUR KIDS:** Really! Any song! This is the #1 best thing to do for your kid's musical development. Regardless of your skill level, *you* are the best model for your child and by doing so, you are modeling an aptitude for music making. Children who have parents who say, "I can't sing" or "I don't sing" are likely to have the same attitude for life! *Singing is a part of life.* We want our children to sing lullabies to their children, and to be able to sing happy birthday to their grandchildren. You don't have to be Adele, Aretha Franklin, or a Luciano Pavarotti. Just sing!
- 2. ASK:** Ask your child what they did in music class! If they say, "nothing" try to dig a little deeper. See if your child can explain an activity that they did or teach you something that they learned. This shows that you are interested in what they are doing in music and that is an important part of their education.
- 3. PLAY WITH SOUND:** Fill a small bin with small instruments to make a musical toy box for "playing music" at home. If you don't have any instruments you can make them! Then let the kids make some noise! There is definitely a difference between noise and music, but many *kids need to experiment* with sound before they can *create music with sound.*
- 4. CHANGE THE STATION:** Try listening to a variety of music. This will broaden your child's taste in music and help to develop their musical ear. There are hundreds of musical genres, so why listen to the same thing all the time?? Please use your discretion when listening to the radio. Be aware of what your kids are listening to. Unfortunately, most of what is on the radio today is inappropriate for children. Instead, try making a Pandora station, or a playlist for your kids. Or if you're thinking a little old-school, go to your local music store and fill a basket with used CD's!
- 5. GO TO CONCERTS:** Turn off the TV and get out there! Whether it's live music at the coffee house, a school event, or a concert in the park, going to a concert is a very exciting thing for kids of all ages. You don't have to pay money to see live music; you just need to know where to look! Check your local newspaper for listings.