

January 2019

## SAVE THE DATES

# May 15th

**Spring Band Concert**  
Intermediate Band  
Advanced Band

# June 6th

**Spring Concert**  
Grades 2, 4, 6, 8 Choruses  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Recorders  
Beginning Band

*Remember that attendance at their concert is required as part of each student's music class grade*

I would like to give a big **CONGRATS** to everyone who participated in the Christmas Concert. The students did an amazing job. The students all worked hard and it truly paid off.

# Music Minute

## Kindergarten

Kindergarteners are continuing to expand their understanding of opposites in music. They also spend a lot of class moving in different ways to show the steady beat of songs. They are also working towards finding their true singing voices. Sometime within the next few weeks, the students will work in groups to compose their very own songs to be played on Boomwhackers. I have never done a composition project with such young kids before, but I'm confident that they can handle it, and I'm excited to see and hear what they create.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

First grade did a magnificent job at the Christmas concert. In class, the students are working a lot on high and low sounds, and identifying the shape of music as it goes between high and low. They will also be beginning to learn about different notes of the major scale. They begin with sol and mi, and we will add in la shortly after that. Once we have those three pitches under our belts, we will begin to work in groups to compose their own songs for Boomwhackers.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been busy traveling with Mr. Maraca! They learned "Canoe Song" and "Land of the Silver Birch" in Canada, and how they fit together as partner songs. They celebrated St. Lucia's day in Sweden, and they learned a dance from the Nutcracker in Russia. The kids always

look forward to receiving more emails and countries.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

As we continue learning about Mama G and her staff house babies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are almost ready to begin their recorders. I will be ordering recorders for the students who need them. They cost \$3. If your child already has a recorder, or has one from an older sibling, you do not need to purchase one. I request no Dollar Store recorders. The quality is not as great which makes it difficult to tune them. Please look online for the form to return to order a recorder for your child. Please return the form even if you are not ordering a recorder so that I know not to wait for your order. Order forms are due by January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

4<sup>th</sup> Graders are currently in the middle of their composition projects. They are working together in groups of 4 or 5 and writing their own songs. Once they are finished writing their songs, they will also practice and then share their compositions with their class on Boomwhackers.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

After doing so well at the Christmas concert, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are now all working on writing group compositions for the Boomwhackers. They began by reviewing rhythms they learned in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and are also adding a new rhythm this year. Then they will be split into groups to create rhythmic compositions, and then the next step

will be to add treble clef pitches to make their song have a melody.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Before break, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders began to learn about Ludwig Van Beethoven. They watched a historical fiction movie about him called *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* and then read some information about Beethoven’s life, and his music. In the next week or two, we will be playing a game of Jeopardy to show me what they learned.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have begun using their iPads in music class. They are working with GarageBand. They started out just exploring in the app to see what they are able to find and do. Next they will begin projects where they get to create their own songs.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

8<sup>th</sup> Grade is taking a short break from using their iPads in music class, but we will be back to them soon. They are working in groups composing songs to perform on Boomwhackers. They are reviewing rhythms and treble clef pitches and then using these skills to write and perform their songs. After their performances, they will return to their iPads to perform their compositions in Garage Band.

## Beginning Band

Our first few Beginning Band rehearsals have gone great! The students are working very hard and are doing a great job working as a team. In lessons, the students learned how to use the fingering charts in the back cover of their lesson books to look up a note or fingering if they don’t know it. This helps save time in rehearsal so they don’t need to keep asking me, and it

also helps give have the resource to look up notes at home so they can practice more efficiently. I ask the kids to refrain from writing in the note names in their music so they can get used to reading them. Please encourage your child to continue practicing hard. We have been looking at “Oy Vey Stomp” a lot and will begin looking at “Mickey Mouse March” in the next week or two. Please remind your students that they need their instrument both for their lessons (Tuesdays for percussion, Wednesdays for everyone else) and on Thursdays for full band rehearsal. The students may leave their instruments in my room overnight if they wish, but they are not required to. It’s just an option in case they’re afraid they may forget to bring it back on Thursdays.

## Intermediate Band

I am unbelievably proud of these students! I gave them extremely challenging music, and they absolutely blew me away with how well they did. They should be very proud of themselves.

They now have their 3 songs for the spring concert and we’ve started working on those. We’ve begun “Flintstones Meet the Jetsons”, “Do Re Mi” and “Reason to Rock.”

## Advanced Band

This band did a great job at their concert! Just a quick reminder that we are taking a short break from after-school rehearsals until after Bound for Broadway is done. There are many students who participate in both band and B4B and we don’t want to force the students to choose which rehearsal to go to. After-school rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

We are still having our weekly lessons during the school day. Your students should have their new lesson schedules

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**Catholic School Days at the BPO for Grades 2-5**

***Students in grades 2-5 will be attending a concert at Kleinhan’s Music Hall to see the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. In the weeks leading up to the concert we will be learning about different people and the roles they play in preparing for concerts. Sometimes students don’t realize the people and jobs that go on behind the scenes. They will also explore what their own role and responsibilities are as audience member. They will also be practicing their conducting skills. Please watch for the permission slip for this field trip and return it by January 16<sup>th</sup> with the \$5 for your child’s ticket.***

already. We have started looking at “Feed the Birds” and will soon be looking at “Mah-Na Mah-Na” and “Safari.” There are some very difficult passages in these songs, so I ask you to encourage your students to practice at home so we can spend band rehearsals focusing on putting the parts together instead of fixing notes on just one or two players’ parts.



