

Volume 1, Number 2

ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educator's Council

<http://music.mysdhc.org/elem-music>

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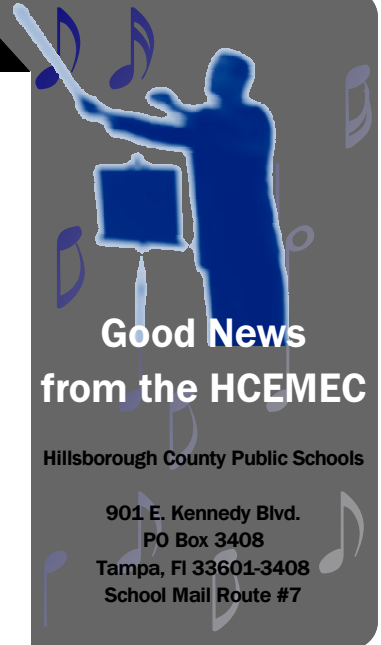
East Region

Laura Mathews

West Region

Nicole Schmucker

Cliff Fouts, UPBEAT Editor



**Good News
from the HCEMEC**

Hillsborough County Public Schools

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Tampa, FL 33601-3408
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FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

The annual Elementary Fine Arts Festival was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2010, at the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts in the Carol Morsani Hall.

This event showcased the very finest young musicians and artists in the Hillsborough County Public Schools. Over 200 artists displayed their creations in the lobby and over 600 musicians performed in the hall that evening. The appreciative audience included over 2,000 parents, school administrators and community leaders.

The performing groups were comprised of area choruses, drums, handbells, Orff, and string students. The finale of the evening included all of the groups performing "Everlasting Melody".

Once again, Hillsborough County is included in the list of the "100 Best Communities in Music". We are proud to continue this tradition, as evidenced by our successful Fine Arts Festival.

♪ Beverly Kermode, District Resource Teacher, FAF Coordinator



For the 7th year, Hillsborough County has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America by the NAMM Foundation. Each year the International Music Products Association recognizes schools and school districts for the distinguished example they set in providing quality school-based music education programs to young people in their community.

This year's roster of Best Communities for Music Education in America includes schools and school districts in 30 states. Hillsborough County is one of only two districts from Florida designated by the NAMM Foundation.

Congratulations to the many Music Specialists in Hillsborough County whose continued dedication to music education has helped to make Hillsborough County one of the best in America!

www.nammfoundation.org

AREA 6 MUSICIANS GIVING BACK

Thirteen elementary schools from Area 6 supported the annual Relay for Life Cancer Walk held at Plant City High School on April 24, 2010, by singing two selections "Tomorrow Needs Us" and "You Raise Me Up" in Honor of the cancer survivors. The chorus was made up of members from Lincoln, Nelson, Robinson, Springhead, Walden Lake, Thonotosassa, Lithia Springs, Cork, Bailey, Shiloh, Wilson, Pinecrest, and Valrico Elementary schools. Charla Kerwin, the music teacher at Springhead Elementary organized the choruses and selecting the music. Hundreds of people from the community attended the event. Mayor Rick Lott read a proclamation from the city praising the relay committee and thanking Plant City residents for making the relay a continued success in the fight against cancer.

Bill Campbell, Robinson Elementary



HCEMEC MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

On March 26th, the Multicultural Music Committee of the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educator's Council presented the second annual Multicultural Music Festival. The event was held outdoors at MacFarlane Park Elementary School and featured a wide range of musical performances, world instruments and resources on display, and delicious food from Mr. Empanadas restaurant.

The event featured wonderful performances from both student and professional ensembles. Among the student ensembles were the Witter Elementary Drumline, "Recorder Rhapsody" and "Mallet Masters" from Bayshore Elementary, "Stallion Thunder World Drumming" from Sessums Elementary, the Shore Elementary Steel Drum Ensemble, and dancers from MacFarlane Park Elementary. The audience also enjoyed various professional ensemble performances ranging from the Stephen Scariff School of Irish Dance to Jose and Esther Suarez' captivating Flamenco guitar and dance, sponsored by the Hillsborough County Arts Council. Lastly, who could forget the audience participation activities? Children and adults alike participated in a Zumba demonstration by Stephanie Scherle, and Hillsborough County's own Nate Strawbridge ended the festival with an exciting, energetic drum circle.

We thank all of the performers who participated in this year's event, and we look forward to another exciting festival next Spring!

Krista Patnode, McDonald Elementary, Co-Chair Music Heritage Committee

CONGRATULATIONS BEVERLY KERMODE

On May 14th, family, friends, and colleagues gathered to celebrate the career of Beverly Kermode who retires this year after 37 (or is it 35?) years of dedication to music education in Hillsborough County. Most recently Beverly served as District Resource Teacher for Elementary Fine Arts overseeing such large projects as the Fine Arts Festival and working as Project Manager of the LEVL Grant.

Westshore Elementary, location of the bulk of Beverly's teaching career, was the site of a colorful celebration all too appropriate for an educator known for her colorful personality and even more colorful wardrobe. Mentoring many young teachers through the years, spearheading innovative projects such as the Young Songwriters Symposium, and consistently an active member of the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educator's Council, Beverly managed to affect countless students and many music specialists while always having fun. So much fun, in fact, that what Beverly thought was 35 years of service turned out to actually be 37!

Perhaps Beverly put it best when she quoted author and educator Henry van Dyke who said, "Never lose life's zest, because the road's last turn may be the best." Congratulations to Beverly Kermode on her well deserved retirement!

♪ Cliff Fouts, Deer Park Elementary, UPBEAT Editor



The ever-fabulous Beverly Kermode is all smiles and aglow with the completion of another successful Fine Arts Festival behind her and retirement in her future.

NEW TAMPA SONG FEST

The Eighth Annual New Tampa SongFest took place at the Carrollwood Day School on Tuesday, April 6th. The event, which featured seven elementary choruses from the New Tampa area and the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus, included both a daytime field trip dress rehearsal and an evening performance.

More than four hundred students met at the Carrollwood Day School during the day for rehearsal, wearing their memento of the event, brightly colored New Tampa SongFest shirts. Each chorus was given the opportunity to run through their two concert pieces on stage, and all seven elementary choruses worked together on the two mass choir pieces.

The students later returned to the Carrollwood Day School Auditorium in their concert attire, this time joined by the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus members, excited to perform for the crowd of thousands. After a rousing opening mass choir performance of "This Land is Your Land" by Woodie Guthrie, featuring two soloists from each chorus, the ensembles performed individually. The Tampa Bay Children's Chorus, directed by Dr. Averill Summer, then amazed the New Tampa students and families with their versatility and vocal control. To complete the concert, the choruses again performed together, this time singing "Shake the Papaya Down", accompanied by percussionists from Steinbrenner High School.

The organizer of the event, Jennifer LeBlanc, founded the event to give New Tampa area chorus directors a venue for performing more challenging music that they may not otherwise have the opportunity on which to work and also gives students the opportunity to see the other school choruses perform.

♪ Katy Lineberry, Turner Elementary



Dr. Averill Summer with the choirs of the New Tampa Song Fest

GRANT RESOURCES

HCPS Grants and Research Office

grants.mysdhc.org

Hillsborough Education Foundation

www.educationfoundation.com

The Unsinkable Molly Brown Foundation

www.mollybrownfoundation.org

Target Grants

www.target.com/grants

The Foundation Center

foundationcenter.org

Public Education Network

www.publiceducation.org

Florida Department of Education Grants

www.fldoe.org/grants



GRANTS



In the current atmosphere of economic struggle, finding funding for our music classes is getting increasingly difficult each day, however alternative funding sources are available through grants. The Grants and Research Office of HCPS provides a lot of guidance and assistance in obtaining grant funding for Hillsborough County school teachers. If you are interested in applying for grants for your school or music program, the first thing you should do is visit the Grants and Research Office website located at <http://grants.mysdhc.org>. There you will find the *Superintendent's Guide for District and School Level Grants*. Also on the website you will find Grant Seeking Resources including a list of links to data sites, which provide valuable information in completing the needs section of grant applications, and links to various list-servs that provide email notification of available funding sources. The FAQ page is also a must-visit as you are beginning the grant application process.

In addition to the website, the Grants and Research Office also provides 1-2 hour grant training for schools, depending on grant deadlines. Though the trainings provided by the Grants Office do not include teacher stipends, the possible benefits to you and your students make these training opportunities very valuable.

The Grants and Research office can be contacted through the website noted above or at 813-272-4477.

♪ Grants and Research Office, HCPS

2009-2010 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ernest Suarez-Chicklowski, Roosevelt Elementary - received \$950 for Mallet Madness Grant to add more Orff instruments and mallets to the music room.

Brent Uppercue, MOSI Partnership - received 25 guitars and over \$400 of free supplemental materials, totaling approximately \$1700 from Little Kids Rock.

Charla Kerwin, Springhead Elementary - received a Molly Brown Instrument Matching Grant for *The Keys To Success* program. Springhead received \$1,500 from the Foundation matching a parent contribution of \$1,300 from Fall Festival Chicken dinner sales to purchase 10 Yamaha keyboards and 15 keyboard stands.

Charla Kerwin, Springhead Elementary - received \$800 from a Target Fieldtrip Grant to take Springhead's 4th and 5th grade students to Durant High School to see the Women's Choir, Show Choir, and Jazz Band perform.

Kevin Coward, Alexander Elementary - received a grant from the Molly Brown Foundation to purchase World Drums for the music program.

Juan Rios, Canella Elementary - Received \$1500 from the Molly Brown Foundation for *The Keys to Creativity* program to purchase keyboards, headphones, power supplies and power strips to create their own "keyboard lab".

Vickie Hunter, Wilson Elementary - received \$500.00 from the Hillsborough Education Foundation, matching funds from the principal, for *Drumming for Literacy* to purchase more Tubanos for World Music Drumming.

IN THE ELEMENTARY MUSIC CLASSROOM...

WRITING

On March 31st and April 1st, Keli Townsend and I presented a workshop on Writing Crafts that can easily be incorporated into the Music classroom. Keli is on the Elementary Language Arts Team serving as a District Resource Teacher under Temetia Creed. The writing crafts that were identified included Sensory Details, Voice, Golden Thread, Attributes, Onomatopoeia, Word Choice-Specific Details, Word Choice-Vivid Verbs and Strong Nouns, and Sentence Variety-Type, Length and Form. Participants were introduced to assorted musical methods that reinforce these crafts, without jeopardizing the music curriculum.

Keli explained each Writing Craft using lots of great examples. I, then, demonstrated various music activities that would take as little as 5 minutes to reinforce those crafts. Workshop participants engaged in activities like writing movie trailers, modifying words in familiar songs, comparing two music selections of the same title but different genre, adding specific details to given songs, and, creating environmental sounds using onomatopoeia.

Probably one of the most exciting outcomes of the workshop was the fact that we all discovered that we are ALREADY incorporating many of these writing crafts. Now we will be able to make better connections by being able to speak the same language that students hear from their writing teachers.

♪ Margie Smith, Schwarzkopf Elementary



Hillsborough Music Specialists discuss strategies during a recent cross-curricular training.

READING

You want me to teach reading in my music classes? Is it possible to teach reading in music without sacrificing the music curriculum? Yes! It can be done! The "Sensational 6" Components of Reading can easily be incorporated into any music lesson.

Did you know that...

- picking out words in a song that rhyme helps students with **Phonological Awareness**? Clapping or playing unpitched percussion instruments on rhyming words will help students with **Rhyming Awareness**.

- question and answer drumming (World Music Drumming) is a great way to reinforce **Syllable Awareness** - also a part of **Phonological Awareness**?

- having students read through a new piece of music in chorus to find words they do not know is teaching them **Phonics** skills? Have them look for new words and then decode to learn.

- labeling items in your classroom can help with **Vocabulary**? Label items in your room...instruments, furniture, etc. Labeling with pictures AND words is even better!

- modeling **fluent reading** can be fun? Before sharing a book or story with your class, quickly read through it and look for things like bold, italicized or underlined words. When sharing the book or story, be sure to read with expression and inflection, follow punctuation and change your voice when reading different characters.

- putting song lyrics in order teaches **Sequencing**? Write song lyrics on sentence strips (a MUST have...I love sentence strips!) and have the students put the strips in order...make it a boys-versus-girls game and you will have them hooked! See? You *can* teach Reading Comprehension!

In short, as music teachers, many of us already 'walk the walk' when it comes to using reading strategies in our music classes. Hopefully now you feel more comfortable 'talking the talk'. So, 'walk the walk, talk the talk', sing, dance, play, read...but most of all, enjoy it and have fun teaching music!

♪ Laura Mathews, E.L. Bing Elementary

MATH

Approximately 50 teachers took advantage of this training presented on May 12th and 13th by Jill Bucholtz and me. Jill was a perfect co-presenter in that she taught music for the first ten years of her teaching career, then became a classroom teacher specializing in math for the past 10 years. She now teaches math to 4th graders at Seminole Elementary School.

This workshop introduced the Sunshine State Standards that are most common to both Music and Math. Math topics that were highlighted were Sorting, Equivalency, Patterns, Fractions, Algebraic Thinking, and Skip Counting. After each math standard was explained, I presented a music activity that directly connected to the math standard. Music Activities included sorting classroom and orchestral instruments, creating rhythm patterns of equal value, recognizing patterns in musical phrases, ostinati and form, relating note values to fractions, implementing algebraic processes to the playing of Orff instruments, and incorporating skip counting rhymes and songs.

The workshop was very interactive and, as a result, participants were able to share the many ways they are presently incorporating these math standards within their music curriculum. As in the writing workshop, it was exciting to find out how much Music and Math actually do have in common. It was also interesting to hear how so many music specialists already incorporate these standards within their curriculum. Participants walked away with a wealth of ideas that they could immediately implement.

♪ Margie Smith, Schwarzkopf Elementary

ESSENTIALS FOR INTEGRATION:

- Sentence strips
- Sharpie markers
- Pocket chart
- Pointer to track words while reading
- Chart paper, and
- Labels, labels, labels!

SUPERVISOR'S SOUND-OFF

Another year is over! We have had an exciting year with the Young Songwriters Symposium, The Florida Orchestra Youth Concerts, Fine Arts Festival, Little Kids Rock, and more professional development than ever. As I have been in our elementary music classrooms, it is evident that teachers who participated in trainings this past year have been utilizing strategies that were presented and have certainly kicked it up a notch. We will continue training in the fall for integration of other content areas and, of course, training for music. We also piloted small groups this spring and next year will expand this type of professional learning community throughout the district.

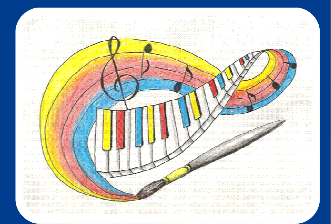
Three elementary music teachers were selected to be mentors and/or peer evaluators as part of the Empowering Effective Teachers initiative. Congratulations to Arlene Haack, Jennifer LeBlanc, and Carolyn Switalski!

Little Kids Rock has received a grant that will be used specifically for Hillsborough County! This grant will fund three guitar workshops over the next few years. Hillsborough students have been recognized for the National Song Writing Contest: Lomax students won third place and received LKR T-shirts, one of the Lowry students placed first and received an acoustic guitar, and a fifth grader from Gorrie Elementary took the grand prize and will receive an electric guitar and amp package. Congratulations to those students and their teachers on their success!

Next year promises to be another exciting year, so take some time this summer to rest, relax, and reflect. Although Hillsborough has been named as one of 2010 Best Communities for Music Education in America, we really are THE best!

♪ *Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Fine Arts*

The Fine Arts Festival program and T-shirt art was created by Shelly Valdez, Art Specialist at Lithia Springs Elementary



For more pictures from the Fine Arts Festival, visit the FAF web page located at:

music.mysdhc.org/faf

HCEMEC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been my pleasure to serve as the President of HCEMEC this school year. This year has been filled with the musical excitement of the Fine Arts Festival and Banquet, District wide trainings and weekend workshops. I have enjoyed getting to spend time with many of the great teachers in our district. Thank you for all of the support and assistance with the events that have been sponsored by the HCEMEC this school year.

So, here's to another great school year! I wish everyone a restful and exciting summer vacation! Use the summer as a time to RECHARGE, REVIVE, and REGAIN that stamina and strive to come back for another successful school year. Happy Summer!

♪ *Ernesta Suarez-Chicklowski, Roosevelt Elementary, HCEMEC President*



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Excellence in Education

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MaryEllen Elia

Supervisor of Elementary Fine Arts

Melanie Faulkner

Fine Arts District Resource Teacher

Beverly Kermodé

www.sdhc.k12.fl.us