

Volume 3, Number 1

ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council

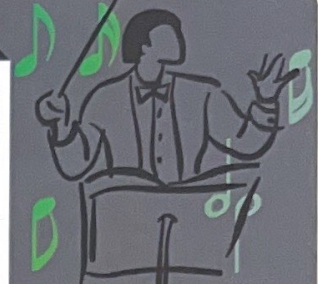
<http://music.mysdhc.org/elem-music>

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**Good News
from the HCEMEC**

Hillsborough County Public Schools

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School Mail Route #7



Welcome back Elementary Music Teachers! My name is Laura Mathews from Schwarzkopf Elementary and I am the President of the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council (HCEMEC) for the 2011-2012 school year. I hope your year is off to a great start. It may only be the beginning of the school year, but boy have we been busy! Over the summer we had the Summer Music Institute at Carrollwood Elementary and Bing Elementary. This four day workshop gave teachers a chance to recharge and gather some great new ideas in assessment and instruction. Also over the summer was another fabulous Little Kids Rock guitar workshop (pictured above). Little Kids Rock is a wonderful and exciting addition to any music program and I definitely encourage you to apply to attend the next workshop that comes to Tampa.

Despite Mother Nature working against us in the earlier part of the day, our Professional Study Day at Steinbrenner High School was a big success. Our hard-working Curriculum Team was ready to roll out our new district curriculum and provided a great vocabulary handout. Conversational Solfege Remix was a great re-fresher for some, and a helpful introduction for others. Differentiated Instruction has become quite a buzz-worthy topic and we were able to walk away from that session with some great new ideas on how to reach every student.

⌘ Continued on page 2 ⌘

JOIN HCEMEC

Our mission is to provide greater opportunities for quality music education to the children of Hillsborough County through high professional standards, continuing teacher education and supporting a strong music community as advocates for lifelong music education.

Annual dues are \$15 per member. Checks should be made out to "Music Council" and mailed to:

Jennifer Leblanc
Chiles Elementary, Route #3



CONNECT WITH COLLEAGUES



Join us on Facebook.

Search for "Elementary Music Council" to join the group page and join in on the discussion.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

The EET was further explained and helped us Connect Domain 1 to the Pre-Conference. Grab 'n Go gave us some great lessons to bring right back to our classrooms. By the end of the day, I was so excited to see that we had over 130 new members signed up for the Music Council! We ended our PSD with a council meeting where we introduced the new board members and gave out some fantastic door prizes.

Regional Meetings this year will be held at Morgan Woods Elementary, Seminole Elementary and Cimino Elementary. The agenda will be the same at each meeting so you can attend whichever meeting is the most convenient for you. Please be sure to check the Conservatory for announcements and important dates. Not sure where to find the Conservatory? On your IDEAS desktop, go to Instructional then find the icon for Conservatory. Once inside the Conservatory, you can also access the Elementary Music folder, yet another helpful place for information. You may be the only Music Teacher at your school, but you are not alone! The Conservatory is a great place for support, ideas and information sharing.

Dues are still being accepted if you have not paid yet. The cost annually is only \$15! The money is used to sponsor many events throughout the year, including the Fine Arts Festival and the Fine Arts Banquet, and also provides an opportunity for members to apply for mini-grants. Please make checks payable to "Music Council" and send them to Jennifer LeBlanc at Chiles Elementary, Rt. 3.

I wish each and every one of you a fantastic and successful school year and look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the year!

Laura Mathews, Schwarzkopf Elementary, HCEMEC President



Summer Music Camp participants at Bryant Elementary

ELEMENTARY MUSIC PLCs

Many Elementary Music PLCs have already begun. PLCs will discuss such topics as differentiation, lesson planning and objectives, curriculum map, and cooperative learning. Regular PLC Attendees will receive the book, *Cooperative Learning & Music* by Marya Katz and Christi Brown. This book is based on the Kagan structures for cooperative learning and contains "9 Cooperative Structures to Learn, Write, and Talk About Music"

You may attend any meeting in the county that is most convenient to you. Do you prefer close to home? Do you prefer close to school? It does not matter, we want to see you at a meeting. Choose from the list of PLC Facilitators in the sidebar to the right. The meetings will be identical at every location, so choose the most convenient group and join their PLC! Once you join a PLC future meeting times/locations will be discussed and decided on to meet all members' needs!

♪ Kimberly Spurlin, Hunter's Green Elementary, HCEMEC President-Elect

IMPORTANT DATES

Check the Music Ed Calendar on The Conservatory as dates are subject to change!

Dec
2 Young Songwriters' Symposium Concert

Jan
11-13 FMEA Convention

March
8 MIOSM World's Largest Concert

March
23 Multicultural Festival

May
16 Fine Arts Festival Concert

PLC FACILITATORS

Area 1

Natalie Epstein, West Shore

Area 2

Lorri Naylor, Lowry

Virginia Vera Town & Country

Alicia Hunter, McKittrick

Area 3

Tausha Honey, Hunter's Green

Matt Stone, Mort

Area 4

Joey Willoughby, Egypt Lake

Area 5

Chrissy Yrutetagoyna, Riverview

Area 6

Orelia Joiner, Bevis

Area 7

Krista Patnode, McDonald

Debby Mann, Yates

ESE

Lois Bassim, Caminiti

HCEMEC MINI-GRANTS

Last year, the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council awarded just over \$1,000 for five mini-grants to HCEMEC members for various music supplies. This year the Council will be awarding \$3,000 in grants! Grant applications and information will be forthcoming, so check the Conservatory often for information on how you can apply for up to \$1,000 to help fund your classroom activities.

LITERACY IN THE MUSIC CLASSROOM

Literacy and music go hand in hand. That is why I wrote a grant to purchase materials to increase my usage of literacy in the classroom. Through the grant awarded from HCEMEC, I was able to purchase literature and picture books, along with Artie Almeida's Mallet Madness curriculum. In the spring I worked specifically with the 2nd grade team to try out my new materials. I had great collaboration with a classroom teacher. She suggested ways I could also incorporate various reading and writing techniques in my lessons in addition to the methods put forth by Artie Almeida. The children had a great time reading *Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina, and acting it out vocally and on instruments. (Monkeys? Instruments? What's not to love?!?) A classroom performance was a must and the children insisted on inviting their teachers to each final performance as well as recording it on FlipVideo to watch it themselves.

I look forward to using the rest of my books in other classes for years to come!

♪ Nicole Schmucker, Seminole Elementary, Mini-Grant Recipient

With the HCEMEC mini grant, I was able to provide my students with a variety of percussion instruments that we did not have in our classroom, including a three piece temple blocks, a tambourine, a rainstick, guiros and claves and new mallets for our xylophones. The temple blocks and the tambourine are very useful for our younger students to teach them basic concepts as beat, high and low pitch, dynamics and type of instruments (wood, metal, etc...) All the instruments are used in class daily and also as part of our Orff ensemble. The Orff ensemble used them during the spring performance last year and the new mallets were even used by the FAF Honors Orff Ensemble. We love having these instruments! Thank you HCEMEC!!

♪ Juan Rios, Cannella Elementary, Mini-Grant Recipient



Thanks to the generosity of our district's music council, the students of Helen A. Davis Elementary were given a unique opportunity to shine this past spring. May 31st, 2011, was the first annual Drum Night at our school. The world drumming ensemble set up in the rotunda and gave an outstanding performance. The "piece de resistance" at the center of our stage area was our brand new ngoma drum. It had arrived in our music room just four weeks earlier, and only two weeks after the district Fine Arts Banquet, where the music council delivered the wonderful news that our school was the recipient of an HCEMEC mini grant. The students, who had not been told I was applying for the grant, walked in the day after the drum was delivered and froze with excitement. Within minutes our rehearsal was in full swing, and students were able to take the improvisation skills we had been working on and transfer them to the ngoma with excitement and ease. Even the ASD students in the ensemble came out of their shells more than usual to play on "the big drum". The night of the concert, the world drum students modeled their improvisation skills so well that two of the audience members bravely volunteered to come up and improvise a solo or two. The evening was a huge success!

I am looking forward to seeing how my students will excel as they continue to use the drum this year and in years to come. The students of Davis Elementary and I would like to say THANK YOU once again to the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council.

Jodie Donahoo, Davis Elementary, Mini-Grant Recipient

Last year, I received a grant from HCEMEC for the purpose of buying world drums. Since my assignment is at Simmons Center, I frequently have students who have difficulty with gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination. My hope is that the world drums purchased with the grant money will aid challenged students in developing better control of their bodies and minds through performing music.

Dennis Cavanaugh, Simmons Center, Mini-Grant Recipient



Above, students and families from Davis Elementary participate in the First Annual Drum Night.



Left, students from the Philip Shore Steel Pan Ensemble, Panacea

Philip Shore Elementary School was privileged to be a recipient of a grant in the amount of \$145.00 to procure new mallets for their steel pan ensemble. Panacea is Philip Shore's staple ensemble, performing many concerts throughout the school year within the community. With the grant, students at Philip Shore were able to procure brand new steel drum mallets for their ensemble, which were much needed. Their previous mallets were very old and literally falling apart, and could not withstand any more "band-aiding." With their new mallets, they now have the proper equipment to perform on their instruments, and will last for years to come. Thank you to the HCEMEC for fulfilling Panacea's need for new mallets.

Mathew Maines, Mabry Elementary, Mini-Grant Recipient



THE SUMMER INSTITUTES:

GETTING BACK IN GAME FORM

Well, football season is upon us, and if you are like me, you are anxious to see how well your favorite team will do. If you follow the sport at all you have heard over and over how important the off-season and pre-season training is to an individual and a team to having a successful year. In much the same way, the Summer Music Institutes training are as important to having success in this coming year. The free sharing of ideas, strategies and philosophies reignites the brain in preparation for the challenges of presenting music instruction to an always changing population of students.

The week began with a focus on the concept of *differentiated instruction*. With the district's move towards *Evaluating Effective Teachers* we have all had to become more intentional in the discipline of creating education opportunities that effectively meet all student's strengths and weaknesses. Frank Hannaway presented some of his own strategies for teaching his students and provided resources that he had found helpful in inspiring new methods to individually instruct and assess a student's achievement.

In much the same way that we are to be intentional in our differentiated instruction, Cynthia Maxwell engaged us in thinking about our essential questions. As we move away from *Bloom's Taxonomy* and toward Norman Webb's *Depth of Knowledge*, we should be considering the types of probative questions we use to determine how well our students are understanding and retaining the concepts that we are teaching.

With thoughts toward integrating more popular music into our instruction, Dan Shea and Sean Moats provided some of their ideas on composition using chord progressions in rock music. They emphasized that although the product is important, it is the process of creation that engages the student in learning. And Tracy Lisi provided some excellent examples of music related games that she uses for instruction and assessment.

Finally, on the last day we each had the opportunity to share a personal lesson of our own. This challenged us by reminding all of us that we each have something to contribute, as well as providing new ideas to encourage us to try something that we haven't done before.

The summer institutes are a great way to prepare ourselves for the new and changing challenges that face us at the beginning of each year. If you were not able to attend this summer, I encourage you to find the notes in the conservatory and review them. As the year continues, I strongly urge us all to get involved with the music PLC's and other training that happen in our district, remembering that we can all help each other become better music educators.

Matt Stone, Mort Elementary

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

LOOK FOR PICTURES FROM THE SUMMER CAMP THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE!

The Summer Music Camp at Bryant Elementary was a total success!! We had 28 students from 4 different schools in the northwest area of the county. The students participated in musical activities which included Orff, world drumming, guitars and ethnic dance. This year's students were a wonderful group of talented musicians. On the final day of the camp, a local rock guitarist spent 2 hours with the students in a master class which ended with all the students performing together with him. All in all, the camp was a successful, exciting and enjoyable experience for both students and teachers alike. Many thanks to the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council and the Principal, Assistant Principal and Music Teachers at Bryant for their support!

Jeff Henson, Hammond Elementary & Juan Rios, Cannella Elementary

ADVOCACY: NAFME

MUSIC EDUCATORS' HAVE A NEW PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION NAME

On September 1, 2011 the former MENC made official it's new name: National Association for Music Education. NafME leaders wished to more accurately reflect the role of the organization and it's membership. Looks like some positive changes have begun in their Advocacy department through Groundswell! They say, "The purpose of the NafME Advocacy Groundswell is to cultivate an online community of NafME members from across the country interested in participating in advocacy initiatives, engaging in discussions about advocacy and regularly digesting advocacy news."

WHAT GROUNDSWELL DOES FOR MEMBERS

1. Streamlines advocacy information via a variety of digestible communication tools, including blog, Facebook, Twitter, RSS and blast e-mail.
2. Provides timely, fluid, and dynamic advocacy intelligence focused on relevant news and research reporting, state advocacy stories, digital media accessibility, resource integration, professional development, and interactive advocacy opportunities for NafME members.
3. Serves as an "advocate identification" resource, allowing NafME to better communicate with individuals most interested in becoming advocacy leaders at the local level, and build ing capacity for jurisdictional policy initiatives.
4. Ignites member passion for advocacy, motivates and mobilizes those most interested in getting involved, and provides NafME with a modern online advocacy hub. *Join under Advocacy at MENC.org*

Don't forget to get your parents involved through...look below to see how below:

PARENT POWER! FAMILIES SUPPORTING MUSIC EDUCATION IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

- 1 Look to parents of ensemble members
- 2 Parents who have said they would like volunteer but don't have much time
- 3 Parents of students who participate in All County or All State
- 4 You may like to add it to your contact information as a check box
- 5 Those audience members who rave about your concerts may be in just the right place to provide you with their email
- 6 Have forms available at your concerts by the programs
- 7 Many parents are life long musicians -find out and get them involved

MENC/NAfME information obtained from www.MENC.org

♪ Lorri Naylor, Lowry Elementary, Advocacy Co-Chair

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

Go to "Find my Representative" enter your address and you will see those politicians representing your area at the state and federal level.

WE WANT YOU:

contact your Advocacy Committee Chairs, *Kyla Bailey and Lorri Naylor* with your Advocacy ideas or to join in.

Look under the ADVOCACY icon in The Conservatory.

SUPERVISOR'S SOUND-OFF

We're off to another great beginning of the school year! Look for new opportunities this year. Music instruction across the district will be more rigorous with the newly revised curriculum and the creation of the curriculum map. Our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will have a new format this year and you will enjoy the positive productive sessions with facilitators and colleagues. And of course, connecting with colleagues allows you to get fresh ideas and the opportunity for collaboration.

Speaking of colleagues, please welcome teachers either new to the teaching profession, new to Hillsborough, or just new to elementary. New teachers include Courtney Ashcraft, Cypress Creek; Tracie Ashley, Mort; Cyndi Burchfield, Dover; Vanessa Crompton, Corr; Michelle Delucca-Lowrey, Lockhart; Chelsea Given, Wilson; Siri Gundersen, Lewis; Wendy Godheim, Robinson; Kathleen Holmes, Shore; Alexis Kendall, Shaw; Danielle Nank, Potter; Jonathan McCormick, Frost; Christine McCrorey, Chiles; Ian Peacock, Ippolito; Aleesa Plungis, Rampello; Ken Schultz, Turner; Alexandra Stout, Kimbell; Sophavy Vann, Ruskin; Ben Vyborny, Doby; Nancy Waters, Roland Park; Adrienne Wills, Burney; and Sadie Wynne, DeSoto.

Take a little time to explore the Elementary Music folder inside The Conservatory and the resources that are available. Wondering about dates? Check the Music Ed Calendar. Tech tip: Sync the Music Ed Calendar with your personal IDEAS calendar and get important dates with just a click!

Thank you for what you do each and every day for students. As always, please let me know how I can assist throughout the year.

♪ Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Music



*Summer Music Camp
participants at
Bryant Elementary*



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Excellence in Education

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