

Volume 4, 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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Welcome back to another year of working with our wonderful musician students! My name is Kimberly Spurlin and I am the President of the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council (HCEMEC) for the 2012-2013 school year. I am excited to begin a new chapter of my own teaching career at Seffner Elementary, and I hope that we can help spread that excitement and enthusiasm as we open our doors to students once again! We have already had several trainings over the Summer to develop new ideas to implement in the Fall! There was an Autism in Music training that I hear was fabulous. The Summer Institute took a different approach this Summer, dividing the typically-4-day training into 4 separate days with participants registering for the courses they were interested in taking. The trainings included: Conversational Solfege I and II, Folk Dancing, LKR Guitar, Orff Ensembles, and World Drumming. Thank you to all the wonderful presenters for your informative trainings!

Professional Study Day, which took place on August 16th, was packed with information! We got to "unpack" the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS), see Jeff Henson present information from his new classroom Orff book, *The Great Big House*, discuss our curriculum maps, and get some great new ideas about reaching Autistic students in our classes! Again, thank you to all the presenters for your informative and educational trainings!

On top of these great trainings, I am pleased to announce that we had a total of 139 teachers join our membership just at Professional Study Day! (You can still pay your dues if you want to become a member...just send your \$15 to Jennifer LeBlanc at Chiles Elementary, Route 3. Checks made payable to "Music Council", please!)

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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 via school mail 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.

WELCOME BACK!

⊕ Continued from page 1 ⊕

Not only did we have a great kick-off to membership, we also had 120 teachers sign up for their PLC! PLC meetings will begin in the middle of September; be sure to watch your email for a message from your facilitator. If you have not signed up for a PLC, contact Kyla Bailey or Krista Patnode for assistance in finding a location that suits your needs!

Now, if you are asking "Why should I pay my dues?", let me help you decide. The Music Council has MANY great things on the agenda for this year. First of all, we have all of our yearly events: the Fine Arts Festival, Fine Arts Banquet, Young Songwriters' Symposium, Multicultural Festival, and FMEA Convention already in the works. Then, we have our Elementary Music PLC Project going into its third year as a successful endeavor. We have two great Professional Development activities: a Kagan workshop on September 29th and an Assessment workshop with Dr. Tim Brophy on October 27th! We have a Social Committee working feverishly on providing food through donations at any opportunity they can find. We have a Sunshine Chair working hard to spread a little extra sunshine and support to those who need it (but you have to be a member!), and we will be working to have more of our teachers become award recipients at the Fine Arts Banquet.

Finally, for the best part....the music council will be awarding \$4,000 (yes, four thousand dollars) in mini-grants!! You can apply for a grant (to go towards Professional Development or Instruments and Materials) of up to \$1,000. This is the best way to see your membership dues come back to help you! Get ready to go shopping and apply for a grant! What do YOU need this year? Apply for a grant!

I look forward to seeing everyone at all of these exciting events. Have a great year!

♪ Kimberly Spurlin, Seffner Elementary, HCEMEC President

SAVE-THE-DATE!

OCT
27

Elementary Music Assessment with Dr. Tim Brophy
(See PDS for more info)

NOV
30

Young Songwriters' Symposium Recital

JAN
9-12

Florida Music Educators' Association
Clinic-Conference

MAR
22

HCEMEC Multicultural Festival
Philip Shore Elementary

MAY
15

Fine Arts Festival Concert
David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts

You can see these events and more on the
Music Ed Calendar located in the Conservatory.

DID YOU KNOW? You can add the Conservatory and the Music Ed Calendar to your IDEAS Desktop?

On your IDEAS Desktop click on "Instructional" and then right-click on "The Conservatory" and select "Add to Desktop".

Now from your Desktop click on "The Conservatory" and then right-click on "Music Ed Calendar" and select "Add to Desktop".

You can also drag the "Music Ed Calendar" to your Calendar on the IDEAS Desktop. Do likewise with your school's Internal Calendar and put all of your dates in one convenient place!

Tech Tidbits

Helpful Tech Tidbit: Up your technology usage by posting your objective on a PowerPoint slide or use your SMART Board software.

♪ (all Tech Tidbits) Jennifer Edelblute, Cork Elementary,
HCEMEC Technology Co-chair

ELEMENTARY MUSIC PLCs

Listed below are the sites and facilitators for the HCEMEC Music PLCs. Contact a facilitator near you if you would like to participate. Due to the large interest, additional sites/facilitators may be added soon.

McDonald Elementary

Krista Patnode

Grady Elementary

Kyla Bailey

McKittrick Elementary

Alicia Hunter

Hunter's Green Elementary

Tausha Honey
& Rick Estes

Bevis Elementary

Orelia Joiner

Town and Country Elementary

Virginia Vera

Mort Elementary

Matt Stone

Nelson Elementary

Carole Pearce

Yates Elementary

Deborah Mann

Riverview Elementary

Chrissy Yruretagoyena

Lowry Elementary

Lorri Naylor

Extended Day PLC

Margie Neely

MINI-GRANTS!

Each year the HCEMEC awards Mini-Grants to Council members for professional development, instruments, books, or other music room needs. This year the Music Council will be awarding a total of \$4000 in grants! You could apply and receive up to \$1000 for instruments, professional development, or more. Grant information and applications will be forthcoming, so make sure you're a member, and check the Conservatory often for updates!

When I first stepped into my new music room at Limona Elementary School last July, I knew I was going to have my work cut out for me. I was so excited to have my 'own' program but was concerned about the lack of instruments, especially drums. There were only 3 congas, ½ a bongo drum set and 4 hand drums. I came from 2 schools that had a wide variety of drums and other percussion instruments, including plenty of Orff instruments as well. By the end of the first half of the school year I decided to lay out 3 main goals for myself. #1 Start some kind of extracurricular instrumental ensemble. #2 Attend more professional development courses. #3 Write grants and find alternate funding for the purchase of instruments.

I am so pleased to say that, as of today, I am on my way to meeting all of my goals thanks in great part to our Music Council! In a couple of weeks I will be starting auditions for a Handchime ensemble. I want to thank Jennifer LeBlanc and Kim Spurlin for inspiring me to start this group, even though I have never been in a Handbell or Handchime Ensemble! This summer I was thrilled to be able to attend the World Music Drumming Workshop as well as the FEMEA Summer Conference. I learned so much at both events and have already started implementing new pieces and activities into my classes. Lastly, I wrote and was awarded two grants. The first being The Janice Lancaster Professional Development Grant from FEMEA and the second being the HCEMEC Grant for the purchase of new instruments. Thanks to the Music Council I was able to purchase 3 Tubano drums! My students were in awe when they first saw the new drums. Many have never seen Tubano drums and they can't wait to get their hands on them! Thank you again Music Council!

♪ Kathryn Jurado, Limona Elementary

Thanks to the kindness of HCEMEC, I was able to start my summer off with a full week of drumming in the new music building at USF. The Council awarded me a mini-grant at the Fine Arts Banquet this past March, and because of their generosity I was able to receive my Level 2 certification in World Music Drumming. It was a very worthwhile training, led by wonderful clinicians, including Sowah Mensah, James Mader, Josh Ryan, Paul Corbiere, Margaret Jerz, and of course, the great Will Schmid. I was able to obtain a large amount of new teaching strategies and performance ideas for my world drum ensemble students, who are already happily at work on them. The workshop also provided me with much insight into the culture of Ghana, as expertly presented by Sowah Mensah. I will certainly be able to enrich my multicultural lessons this school year with everything I learned at the workshop.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Music Council for providing me with this fantastic professional development opportunity. And, to any of my colleagues who have been thinking about applying for a mini-grant, don't hesitate! You will be so glad you applied.

♪ Jodie Donahoo, Davis Elementary

I want to thank the HCEMEC for choosing Yates Elementary as one of their recipients for the 2012 Mini-Grant. Since we had only three tubanos at Yates, the grant money was used to purchase three more – one high, one medium, and one low. At last we were getting closer to having enough drums to be able to include some of the exciting activities found in the World Drumming curriculum!

After deciding to attend the World Drumming workshop at USF this past summer, I spoke to Richard Shields, my principal at Yates, about my desire to start World Drumming. To my great surprise he ordered SIX more tubanos that were waiting for me in my room the first day of pre-planning! World Drumming activities were then immediately started the first week of this school year. “What’s Your Name?” and drum echoes could be heard in Yates’ 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes with excited students developing respect, teamwork, watching, and listening skills through this outstanding curriculum.

Debby Mann, Yates Elementary

HCEMEC provided me with the funds to attend the World Drumming Music Workshop at USF in June. I was part of the Level 2 Certification group in which I was able to learn more advance techniques and more ensembles to use with my students at my school. Six different instructors took me on a journey of music from different cultures, from Ghana to the Caribbean. The sessions included a wide range of material that can be used with any students at any level and age group. I am looking forward to teach what I learned to my students and add more variety to our curriculum during this year. Apply for a grant with HCEMEC this year. It's worth it!!

Juan Rios, Canella Elementary

We are off to a running start at Maniscalco Elementary for this school year! After being awarded the HCEMEC grant to assist with the purchase of tubanos (something we never had the prior privilege to have) my students were asking every day if the drums had arrived. This new school year I can happily tell them, “yes!” and start the drumming! Not only will my students have a chance to use the drums during class to better understand music, I am working in cooperation with my school social worker and guidance counselor to create a drumming/Orff group that will better support the needs of some of the students that are the most critical to reach. As a teacher, due to the ability to offer my students the opportunity to be even more hands on with music, an opportunity that no child should miss, I must admit I feel as excited as the kids! Now, thanks to the HCEMEC, my students will have that chance.

Rosalie Lathers, Maniscalco Elementary

MAXIMUM IMPACT!



A
Maniscalco
student
checks out
the new
drums
purchased
through an
HCEMEC
Mini-Grant

Helpful Tech Tidbit: Check PDS for several Mimio, SMARTBoard, and Promethean Interactive Whiteboard trainings currently available through December 2012.

Tech Tidbits

DRUMMIN' & GROOVIN'

On July 19th, a group of music teachers met for "Drumming and Grooving", a drumming training lead by Crestwood Elementary's Nathaniel Strawbridge. Ever so vivacious and fun, Nathaniel taught participants the basics of implementing a drumming curriculum in the music classroom. He provided his proven strategies for success, as well as shared some of his own arrangements and other pieces. Along with examples of technique and activities, participants were also given assessment examples on efficiently assessing drumming activities. After a full, fun day of learning and drumming, teachers left with sore hands and confidence to carry out a drumming curriculum in each grade level.

♪ Lindsey Jones, Kimbell Elementary

Hillsborough County Music Specialists participate in Singing, Dancing, Drumming, Recorders, and Xylophones while taking advantage of professional development opportunities during the Summer.



Tech Tidbits

Helpful Tech Tidbit:
SMART Notebook 11 is available for download, ask your technology person at your site to help you out with that.

ROCKIN' & ROLLIN'

Little Kids Rock is rocking as always! Dann Shea was more than knowledgeable about the needs of all teachers, both new and experienced. The training was a great incorporation of tricks, tips, and tools to use. As participants, not only did we get the chance to review our knowledge and review techniques of LKR, but also how to formulate our beginning rock bands. During the session, participants were able to wake up their fingers rocking with the LKR progression method. As the session progressed it morphed (in true Shea style) into assisting attendees with information about methods, materials, and settings to produce the best outcomes in a small group ensemble. For those who have not attended LKR in a while, be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming refreshers, as there has been many advancements with the Rock Band program, which I know you will love to incorporate in your instruction in the future. Don't forget to check out all the amazing enhancements and improvements with "The Hang", including the new chord chart organization, on the LKR website.

♪ Rosalie Lathers, Maniscalco Elementary

DANCIN' & PRANCIN'

This summer I attended the folk dance training presented by John King and Vanessa Lewis, who both teach at Westchase Elementary. This training was so much fun! I have to say, I got such a work out from all the dances! We were all out of breath by the end of the day!

We started off with a discussion of why folk dancing? Why teach this in our rooms? The answer is simple: it engages learning on so many levels at once, and as a bonus, it brings people together. I can say that was true for us. There were so many smiles and a lot of laughter throughout the training.

We went over the proper etiquette for Folk Dancing: Gentlemen and Ladies, bowing to your partner, and clapping for the dance. I have used these expectations with my kids so far this year and they really do enjoy playing the part! From there, we began dancing! We learned a variety of longways sets, circle dances, Sicilian dances, contra dances, and we ended with a square dance!

I am so excited to use all the dances with my students this year. I feel so inspired by John and Vanessa with how much their kids enjoy dancing at all ages! I hope to create the same love and joy of dancing in my students as they have with theirs. It was wonderful to hear how their old students return on their Community Folk Dance nights to dance with the younger ones and say hello to their "old" teachers. Dancing together truly can bring people together in a unique way. I can't wait to dance the year away in my own classroom. Thank you John and Vanessa!

♪ Kyla Bailey, Lanier Elementary, HCEMEC President

Tech Tidbits

Helpful Tech Tidbit: If you don't have a school website, you should! Check with your site technology person about having an onsite training to get several teachers trained at once. Lead the technology on your campus!

PLAYIN' & SINGIN'

We all know that Jeff Henson is an amazing musician and composer/arranger, but if you attended the summer session 'Great Big House' you were reaffirmed. Jeff pulled out all the stops with his wonderfully arranged new book, and walked us step by step through his thoughts and ideas about how to teach each song to make them work in our own classroom. Each piece in his book has been tastefully arranged using Orff instruments as well as Recorder and Vocal parts. Jeff also provided his insights into how to successfully use differentiation while playing these pieces with your students. Additional information was also presented during the training as to substitutions and changes one can make to suit their own classroom instrumentation. I must say we should be truly thankful for the information taught during this session, as there were many take-aways that can be instantly used in our classrooms.

♪ Laura Mathews, Schwarzkopf Elementary

ASD IN THE MUSIC CLASS

In the not too distant past, we all had a few students who we just considered “quirky”. However, due to heightened public awareness and changes in diagnostic criteria, those “quirky” students would now most likely be found on the Spectrum of Autism Disorders. From 1 in 10,000 students in 1991 to 1 in every 88 in 2012, the prevalence of ASD students has risen at astounding levels.

During the Summer, music specialists received an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders, and at Professional Study Day, courtesy of Carole Pearce, Nelson Elementary, we were provided with many strategies to integrate these students into our classes.

Anyone who has taken a trip around the dial of a radio recently, or has teenagers in their house, would agree that music one person perceives as pleasant sounding, could easily be perceived as irritating by another. Nowhere is this more true than with an ASD student for whom music is sensory first, and cognitive second. This irritating sensory overstimulation can often lead to fear and a fight or flight response. During the workshops, we were presented many effective strategies to eliminate the fear and help the music connect to our students.

For more information about ASD, see the Center for Autism Related Disorders (CARD) at <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/>

♪ *Cliff Fouts, Deer Park Elementary*

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

During the week of June 18th, Hillsborough County music students enjoyed a summer music camp that was held at Bryant Elementary. Camp instructors were Juan Rios, music teacher from Cannella Elementary and Jeff Henson, music teacher from Hammond Elementary. This was the fifth year the camp was offered and was well-attended with 25 students participating in the week-long day camp. Camp members were busy with a variety of music-making activities including guitar, world drumming, folk dancing, and Orff instruments.

♪ *Jeff Henson, Hammond Elementary*



Left, students enjoy the Orff arrangements of Jeff Henson, Hammond Elementary, during the Sumer Music Camp.

Right, Students sing, strum, and drum with Juan Rios, Cannella Elementary, at the Sumer Music Camp.



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