

Volume 4, Number 2

ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council

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

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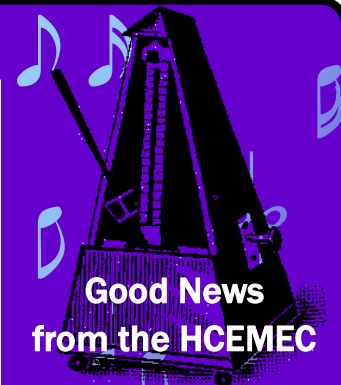
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Good News
from the HCEMEC

Hillsborough County Public Schools

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School Mall Route #7



YOUNG SONGWRITERS 2012

The young songwriters gathered at Kingswood Elementary in September not knowing exactly for what they were in store. Sean Moats and Dann Shea, music teachers and project co-coordinators, began to lead the students through a songwriting process that would eventually lead them to Morrisound recording studio and the final recital on November 30th at Orange Grove Middle School where each child performed their own song with a live rock band.

"It truly does take an entire team to pull off this project each year." says Dann of the YSS. Our team this year included Benjamin Vyborny, Beth Lamb, Jennifer Burrows, Jonathan Hunt, Joey Willoughby, Justin Daniels, Lindsay Blanc, Rebecca Vincent and Sharon Martin. Each song is shared amongst the community and each songwriter is given feedback by their peers to help them shape their songs into masterpieces. This year our engineer Jim Morris of Morrisound recording studio was shocked by the quality of the songwriting. Bravo to all of our 5th grade songwriters. We all can't wait until next year.



Listen to the students' songs at
youngsongwriters.com

SUPERVISOR'S SOUND-OFF

It's hard to believe we are nearly half way through the school year! Much has already taken place with PTA performances, community performances, Veteran's Day, the Young Songwriters Symposium, Holiday programs and more to come for the spring semester. Thank you to Dann Shea and Sean Moats for coordinating the Young Songwriters Symposium and organizing the finale concert on November 30, 2012. It was fabulous!

The Florida Music Educators Association's Professional Development Clinic-Conference is the week we return from Winter Break and is a tremendous way to begin 2013. I hope to see you there!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bravo to our Elementary Music Teachers who have been nominated as Teacher of the Year and the Ida S. Baker award at their schools. They are well deserving of this recognition!

Teacher of the Year

Kyla Bailey, Lanier Elementary
 Ernesta Chicklowski, Roosevelt Elementary
 Alicia Hunter-Davis, McKittrick Elementary
 Matthew Maines, Mabry Elementary
 Carole Pearce, Nelson Elementary
 Nate Strawbridge, Crestwood Elementary
 Betty Trascritti, Bryant Elementary

Ida S. Baker Award

Yvonne Ayala-Lugo, Lithia Springs Elementary
 Sarah Driggers, Cahoon Elementary
 Steve Florio, Grady Elementary
 La Gretta Snowden, Lincoln Elementary
 Gary Ward, Thonotosassa Elementary

♪ Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Music

Congratulations to the following teachers for having students accepted into the 2013 Elementary All-State Chorus!

Jennifer LeBlanc, Chiles
 Kathryn Jurado, Limona
 Lorri Naylor, Lowry
 Betty Trascritti, Mary Bryant
 Alicia Hunter-Davis, McKittrick
 Courtney Driggers, Nelson
 Stephanie Powers, Ruskin
 Sophavy Vann, Ruskin
 Victoria Walsh, Tampa Palms



Hillsborough's Young Songwriters in the studio at Morrisound.



"I loved when we went to the recording studio and recorded our song." Mariangeli Lopez, Young Songwriter, Potter Elementary

Tech Tidbits

MIMIO VERSUS SMARTBOARD

We hear all the chatter about interactive white boards - you know SmartBoards, Mimios, and Promethean, but what exactly does that mean?...What are they? What do they do? How do they work?

Well, simply put, it pretty much turns your computer into a giant touch screen. It takes the image from your computer, sends it through your projector and displays it onto the board's surface. Depending on the type of interactive whiteboard, you then use a stylus, pen, or your finger to control your computer's mouse. Sounds pretty amazing, right? Did you know they come with their own software that is pretty snazzy in its own right? We are going to take a second to compare Mimio and SmartBoard.

MIMIO

The Mimio Interactive System makes any dry erase board, or any light colored flat surface, into an interactive whiteboard. It uses a small sensor bar that attaches to the wall or board with magnets or suction cups. Combined that with the projector and computer and you have an interactive white board.

Mimios use a "mouse stylus" for all the board interaction.

Mimio software allows you to import existing material from SMART, Promethean, and files saved in .iwb format. So, you can use any great lessons from fellow teachers that were designed on the other platforms with the Mimio software.

VS.

SMARTBOARD

SMARTBoards are purchased in set sizes and can either be used on stands or attached to the wall. This board also needs to be combined with a projector and computer to complete the interactive whiteboard package.

To interact on the SMARTBoard surface you can use a pen, your finger, or other smooth tipped item such as a tennis ball or a worn out mallet.

Notebook 11, the most recent release of SMARTBoard's software, can also open Mimio and Promethean files. SMART has an impressive database of SMARTBoard lessons that is searchable by subject, grade level, or state standard.

You can find The SMART Exchange at <http://exchange.smarttech.com>

NOW, GO GET YOUR INTERACTIVE WHITE BOARD ON!

KAGAN COOPERATIVE LEARNING & MUSIC

For many elementary music teachers, September 29th was spent with Ellen Degeneres look-a-like Christi Brown, co-author of the musical application of the Kagan method of cooperative learning. With Kagan, “it’s all about student engagement.” Their vision is for students to be fully engaged in cooperative learning as opposed to just group work.

On this Saturday, we started out participating in “find a partner” activities. Moving around the room to different styles of music, we partnered up and were assigned a “spy partner,” “dance partner,” and “phone partner” (depending on the song) in order to question each other, to work on interpersonal functions (class building, team building, communication skills) and academic functions (knowledge building, procedure learning and thinking skills). Students learn more when they think out loud, respond to higher order questions, and explain music knowledge to someone else.

Kagan uses what they call “structures in music,” which are activities that the kids learn quickly, to exchange information. “Time-Pair-Share” is teacher driven, and each partner is given equal time (a timer is used) to discuss an assigned topic, sing or play.



“Rally Robin” is student driven and is best used for quick lists (note names, composers, vocabulary) or taking turns playing for each other. No timer is used. “Round Robin” is similar, but used in teams. “Rally Coach” is a structure where kids must be taught how to be a good coach to a partner, and can be used with worksheets, reciting rhythms, or mallet stickings. An important component of Kagan strategies is the fact that social skills are embedded in every structure. My group and partners had a great time exchanging exceedingly kind words and using impeccable manners to work on our own social skills.

I have watched very shy students sharing information with their partners over the last few weeks, and I’m very happy I attended this Kagan training on a beautiful Saturday.

FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES OF KAGAN COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- P** - **Positive Interdependence:** When you do well, I do well.
- I** - **Individual Accountability:** A student can’t hide in your classroom, he/she is accountable to a partner or group.
- E** - **Equal Participation:** Each student has equal time, equal turns and equal status.
- S** - **Simultaneous Interaction:** What percentage of students are OVERTLY interacting at once?

ELEMENTARY MUSIC ASSESSMENT

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT & PAINLESS EVALUATION WITH DR. TIM BROPHY

As we moved along and sang our songs, the Tim Brophy workshop opened new ideas for painless assessment in our classrooms. How painless is taking what you are already doing and making it into an assessment? Brophy explained the ins and outs of assessment through discussion and interactive demonstration. The class referenced materials from his book *Assessing the Developing Child Musician*, and other materials that can now be found in The Conservatory.



The initial discussion dissected the pieces of assessment and basic scoring guidelines. Discussion of these scoring guidelines clarified how to build an assessment from a lesson plan activity. Brophy explained the four basic scoring guidelines for the teacher to use in developing a rubric, assessing a single concept or multiple concepts, and then deciding if the student is rated by a "+" or "-" using a rubric

created for the assessment. Hopping back up to sing and dance, Brophy put all the discussed ideas into practice by giving practical examples of assessment for each activity.

The workshop activities were each broken down in the handouts to show the activity/task, criterion, and assessment with scoring procedures teachers could use as example/reference when developing assessments to personal lesson plans. Examples were given on how to assess steady beat, line/circle games, improvisation, dance, maintaining vocal independence, group discussions, and more. The workbook provided excellent "Cliff Notes" for Brophy's book *Assessing the Developing Child Musician*. The workshop helped recharge our batteries for assessment with our new Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Thank you to the Elementary Music Council and Melanie Faulkner for bring the workshop to our county, and a special thanks to Kenneth Schultz and Richard Estes for being great hosts!

♪ Julie Boon, Bailey Elementary

"I loved making friends with all
The young songwriters."
Shakima Williams, Young Songwriter,
Potter Elementary

Copies of Dr. Brophy's book *Assessing the Developing Child Musician*, purchased by the HCEMEC, are available for your review. Contact your Music PLC Coordinator for more info.

HCEMEC MENTORING

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!

Sarah Mitchell Bates, Dover/Mango
 Lindsay Blanc, Potter
 Julie Boon, Bailey
 Justin Daniels, Riverhills
 Courtney Driggers, Nelson/Pinecrest
 Joey Harper, Roland Park
 Megan Hatcher, Bellamy
 Jonathan Hunt, Hunter's Green/
 Heritage
 Jeremy Jackson, Oak Park
 Mindy Mabry, Bay Crest
 Christine McCrorey, Shaw
 Roy Mitchell, Mort/Mendenhall
 Amanda Mole, Shaw
 Craig Rohrbacker, West Tampa
 Pakorn Srikeow, Sulphur Springs
 Fio Tangherlini, Mabry/Gorrie
 Merritt Tilson, Lake Magdalene/
 Morgan Woods
 Charles Williams, Potter

...and our newest teachers (just hired
 within the past month!)

Meghan Jones, Davis
 Christine Sabio, Dunbar
 Thomas Waistell, Knights

NEW MUSIC TEACHERS OFF TO A GREAT START!

As the Mentoring Coordinator for HCEMEC, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with our new elementary music teachers this year. Along with facing the challenges of being new teachers in our district, they have also been extremely busy attending a multitude of trainings including Conversational Solfege 1 & 2, Reading in the Music Classroom, TIP trainings, Kagan Cooperative Learning, Brophy Music Assessment, and Content Area Training sessions.

These dedicated teachers will also be "out-and-about" soon beginning a round of observations of some of our experienced music teachers. I am honored to be involved with such a hard-working group of educators! Please give them a pat on the back and welcome them to our district when you see them!

♪ Jennifer LeBlanc, Chiles Elementary, HCEMEC Mentoring Coordinator



"Being in the Young Songwriters is great because students my age get to live their dream! I think this program should keep on going so more dreams can come true."
 Dalila, Tampa Bay Blvd.

THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA YOUTH CONCERT

COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION WITH STUDENTS WITH ASD

At Maniscalco, we have a large group of students with ASD, both mainstreamed, and ESE self-contained. When the opportunity to attend the Florida Orchestra concert came up, I immediately replied requesting seats - not only for my fourth graders, but also for my older ASD students. Normally this is not an event that they would be invited to for multiple reasons. Many simply don't include these students, or worry about strange behaviors presenting in public. While my students have special needs, this was an opportunity to experience live music that was too important for them to miss out on.

The trip was an amazing success! We only had one student (out of 16 ESE) feel uncomfortable during the trip. While I prepared them for almost every aspect of the event, I was not prepared for the excitement and happiness that my students portrayed afterward. My students were able to see their favorite instruments played in real life. One student exclaimed 'I love the big drums!'

⌘ Continued on page 7 ⌘

FROM COLLEGE TO THE CLASSROOM

A FIRST-YEAR TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Who knew the transition from college to working in the musical classroom would be so...eye-opening? I constantly try to remind my students (and myself) that I am a new teacher and that I will make mistakes often!!! However, there are times where I am amazed at how my mistakes can often turn into learning experiences for my students.

Before I get to my students, I'd like to first touch on how amazingly supported I feel here in Hillsborough County. My internship teachers, the music teachers at Roland Park, my administration, my fellow first year music teachers, my Professional Learning Community teachers, and the general education teachers at Roland Park have all helped create an environment where I feel comfortable enough to branch out and successfully transition from an intern to a music educator.

To say that this transition process has been easy or difficult would be an extreme oversimplification. I have had my moments where I was afraid that I was inadequate as a teacher but in the same day I would feel like I encouraged a student to be musical. Something else that struck me recently, almost an epiphany, was that I have the musical life of all the children at my school in my hands. With one short remark, I could make a student think their voice is inadequate, or their rhythm skills lacking to the point where the student never performs music once they leave elementary school. At the same time, I can encourage one student and have them excited about music like they've never been before! What a responsibility!

Overall, my first year teaching perspective is that I love what I do! I enjoy teaching all the students at my school about music. I enjoy stretching their minds to the point where they are creating and forging new musical frontiers. In addition to teaching the students about music, I also enjoy teaching them about life. At the end of the day, I want my students to be respectful, cooperative, committed, responsible and tolerant individuals in addition to being successful musicians. At the end of the day, I want my students to be greater people when they leave my classroom in addition to being better musicians.

♪ Joe Harper, Roland Park K-8

⊕ The Florida Orchestra Youth Concert - Continued from page 6 ⊕

For another girl, she immediately fell in love with the harp. Before this trip, I had not instructed on this instrument; she found such an interest in it that she went home and began learning more about the instrument on her own, something she has not done before.

While students with ASD may not act 'normal' by traditional standards, it is important that they have a chance to see not only the orchestra, but how other children behave at such an event. At the end of the field trip, I found that not only did my students learn from others, but students (both at my school and other schools) had a chance to learn from them the acceptance and community feeling that an event like attending the orchestra can have.

♪ Rosalie Lathers, Maniscalco Elementary, HCEMEC Social Co-chair

OUT-AND-ABOUT

Thanks to many teachers' responses to HCEMEC's request to share ideas for student performances in the community, we have compiled a list of your favorites. Please take a look at the information posted in **The Conservatory**: you may be surprised at the diversity of opportunities that are out there for you and your students! Go For It! Show our community that music matters in Hillsborough County!

If you have performance venues/opportunities to share, email them to Carol Baccoli in IDEAS so we can add them to the list! Then, after you've performed send pictures (make sure you have media releases for pictured students) to Cliff Fouts and we may publish them in the next Issue of On The Upbeat!

♪ Carol Baccoli, Lopez Elementary, HCEMEC Member-at-Large

Out and About!

The Metropolitan Ministries Partnership School Chorus, *Notes of Joy*, under the direction of Brenda Johnson, sang at the Tent Blessing for Metropolitan Ministries on November 8th. Many of the students at Metropolitan Ministries Partnership School have lived in the shelter or are living there now. This event was to raise awareness of the homeless population and to raise funds to support the Holiday Tent. The children were delighted to sing for this event.



Out and About!

Members of the Deer Park Ranger Chorus, under the direction of Thayne Washburn, sing before the Junior Achievement Auction and Fundraiser on November 30th.



MAR
22

COMING SOON!

HCEMEC MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Apply for your Ensemble to perform !!

Stay tuned to The Conservatory on IDEAS for information about the 2013 HCEMEC Multicultural Festival to be held March 22 at Philip Shore Elementary School.



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Excellence in Education

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