

Volume 5, Number 3

ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council

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

HCEMEC Executive Board

Tausha Honey, President

Jeff Henson, President-Elect

Kimberly Oppermann, Past-President

Jennifer LeBlanc, Treasurer

Natalie Epstein, Secretary

Cliff Fouts, UPBEAT Editor

Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Music

Good News
from the HCEMEC

Hillsborough County Public Schools

901 E. Kennedy Blvd.
PO Box 3408
Tampa, FL 33601-3408
School Mail Route #7

ALL-STATE CHORUS

2014 FMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



When my music teacher Mrs. DeMarco told me that I was having an audition to be in All-State Chorus, I freaked out with excitement. Since then, every Wednesday morning I would come to the music room to practice for the audition. I was not the only one that was there to practice; a girl and a boy from 5th grade were there to practice for their audition too. As we practiced, there was only one thing that all of us kept singing wrong. Instead of singing a sharp note we would sing a flat note, because the sharp note was very weird and hard to hit, and we almost never use it.

Finally, the day for the audition came and I was sweating like a donkey and I felt butterflies in my stomach. While I was singing Mrs. DeMarco had to record it to send to the judges. During the audition everything I did was perfect, until it was time to sing the sharp note. I sang it with fear, but at the end of the recording, I knew I did it correct this time. After Mrs. DeMarco turned in the recording I was waiting for the big news if I got in or not. Around 3 weeks later, Mrs. DeMarco came to tell me the big news...I got in!

✂ Continued on page 3 ✂



Dana Paz and her music teacher, Jen DeMarco, before the All-State Concert.

Visit pages 4 - 6 for more information from the 2014 FMEA Professional Development Conference!

ADVOCACY: MIOSM

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) has officially designated March for Music Education in observance of Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM), the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation. The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community and to display the benefits school music brings to students of all ages. For more information please go to www.nafme.org.



All-State Chorus Students, above, sing for the Hillsborough County School Board members and HCEMEC President Tausha Honey, below, reads the MIOSM Proclamation at the March 4th Board Meeting.



The theme this year, “Music Makes Me_____!” encourages those whose lives have been made better by music, to share their stories at advocacy.nafme.org.

As part of Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council MIOSM events, our All State Chorus participants sang *Show Me How* by Terre Mc Pheeters at the March School Board Meeting and MIOSM Proclamation reading.

It has been a wonderful Music in Our Schools Month for Hillsborough County Elementary Music. New programs in advocacy emerged and the return of an important award was announced.

The NAMM Foundation awards school music education programs with the announcement of 2014’s Best Communities for Music Education (BCME). This year, 2014, Hillsborough County Schools was again awarded this distinction. We are one of the BEST Communities for Music Education in the Nation!

♪ Lorri Naylor, Lowry Elementary, HCEMEC Advocacy Chair

MUSIC
MAKES ME



2014 ALL-STATE CHORUS

⊕ Continued from page 1 ⊕

I was the first Muller student to ever get into Elementary All-State Chorus! Since then, I started rehearsing with my teacher every week and practiced with my parents in the house and in the car. The first time I saw the music I feared that there were too many songs I had to learn, but I was able to do it.

January arrived very soon and as the days passed, I got more nervous and nervous. Finally the first rehearsal with all students from the whole state came. As we entered the Tampa Convention Center, just as I expected, it was humongous and full of people. My mom and I found the room for the rehearsal, where all the kids were rushing in to get to their assigned seat. When Dr. Dailey walked in to conduct us, all he did were some movements and expected us to know what he was doing.

At the beginning all of us were confused, but then we realized that he wanted us to copy him. After we were done warming up, we started on the first song. He let us do each song together one time even if we messed up, because he wanted to see how we would perform together. The first day we worked very hard to polish our songs. At the end we were really tired, but it was ok, because Dr. Dailey was a very entertaining teacher. The next day we had time to practice in the morning and all of our songs were ready for a performance, except that our faces were not. The conductor thought that we could not express ourselves enough. We practiced more and more, but any time one person would stop expressing their face, we would stop and start the song again. At one o'clock the concert started. I was ready to perform, but I was not sure about the other kids. There were like thousands of eyes looking at us and flashing their cameras. My favorite songs were: *Show Me How* and *Shine Your Light*.

The next Friday morning I was invited to the morning show at school. They were supposed to give me a surprise, but on the concert night my Dad told me I was getting a plaque and spoiled the surprise. However it was still awesome to receive the award on that show. All of this was still the most fun I have ever had!

♪ Dana Paz, 4th Grade, Muller Magnet Elementary, FMEA All-State Chorus Member



The delegation of students to represent Hillsborough County at the 2014 FMEA All-State Elementary Chorus included students from Bay Crest, Chiles, Lake Magdalene, Lanier, Lowry, McKittrick, Muller, Nelson, Roosevelt, Ruskin, Schwarzkopf, Tampa Palms, and Turner Elementary Schools.

FMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Each year the Tampa Convention Center hosts thousands of music educators from across the state for four days of meetings, workshops, and many opportunities to improve our teaching and learn something new. Not to mention the performances and All-State Concerts! On the following pages, members of HCEMEC, the local committee for the conference, recall some of the outstanding sessions presented this year.

JAZZ STORIES FOR K-6 PRESENTED BY SHERRY LUCHETTE

This session featured jazz music and the art of improvisation and scat in instrumental and vocal activities for elementary children. The presenter shared lesson activities from two of her resources: the *Flying Jazz Kittens* books with accompanying CDs. She presented a guided movement activity with the Duke Ellington classic, *Duke's Place*. It incorporated a children's book about Duke Ellington and a recording of the music in the activity. She shared a movement and improvisational drumming activity using Benny Goodman's *Sing, Sing, Sing* and the book *Once Upon A Time in Chicago* by Jonah Winter. She demonstrated the process for helping children explore scat singing, using spoken and sung echo-responses and scat vocabulary cards. For the last part of the workshop, her focus was the blues. She used her original blues song *Twinkle Baby* as the "head" for a performance piece that gives students an opportunity to improvise on recorders and Orff instruments. Participants were singing, playing drums, Orff instruments and recorders and swingin' in this workshop!

♪ Carol Baccoli, Lopez Elementary



HCEMEC Council Members Juan Rios, left, and Rebecca Traenkner & Jennifer Leblanc, right, move instruments as part of the host committee duties.



BRINGING THE WORLD TO YOUR CLASSROOM PRESENTED BY NYSSA BROWN

In this session, Nyssa Brown presented music from around the world that can be used in the classroom. She showed us authentic videos of children in Kenya singing folk songs that can be used to give students an accurate representation of Kenyan music. She made some interesting points about "world music" in music education. She stated that we should endeavor to present videos and song clips that are performed by the originating culture, not a westernized version. Also, she said that we should be careful not to create a sense of "normal, western music" vs. "other, world music" in our classroom. We should give equal time and emphasis for all cultures' music!

♪ Meghan Jones, Davis Elementary



Nate Strawbridge and the Crestwood Elementary Tiger Drummers open the first General Session of the 2014 FMEA Conference.

RELEVANCE & RIGOR: POPULAR GUITAR PRESENTED BY DAVID HENDRICKS

Hats off and a huge round of applause to our very own David Hendricks! One of our very own guitar gurus presented the fabulous session “Relevance and Rigor: Popular Guitar in the General Music Classroom”. During this session David shared his tips and tricks to keeping up with the NGSSS while keeping the ‘fun’ in the basics of learning the guitar for beginners and intermediate students alike. Attendees were able to not only get a lot of wonderful ways to incorporate guitar into their curriculum, but also rocked during the group jam session! If there is one session I would recommend to attend in the future, it would be any one presented by Dave – it will rock!

♪ Rosalie Lathers, Maniscalco Elementary

FIRST STEPS IN MOVEMENT PRESENTED BY JOHN FEIERABEND

I took a lot of theoretical concepts away from this session with John Feierabend. He stressed that we must try our best to reach our young students early, to instill the qualities of a “tuneful, beatful, and artful” musician, because they eventually lose the ability to improve (age 7 was stressed). After that point, we are working with what they have. I personally relate to this because of my “square feet”. I struggle with learning dances and I think this may be why. In regards to head voice, he recommended going from high to low three times before anything else and we learned a song I haven’t heard before, *White Sand, Grey Sand*. He also suggested the idea of doing 2 lessons of listening while doing an activity, two lessons of doing together and two lessons of having students lead. Additionally, he laid out an order for all activities. I also gained insight into song tales and their purpose. Before this session, I never heard that they were to be done as an expressive story, at the end of the lesson to calm the students, and teach them the “artful” part of “tuneful, beatful, artful”.

♪ Ben Vyborny, Doby Elementary



Presenter Brent Holl, left, shared many of his ideas utilizing percussion in the general music classroom.



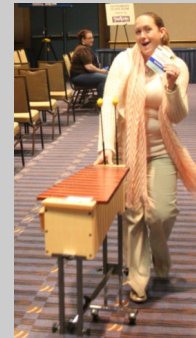
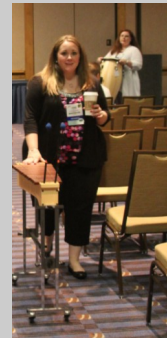
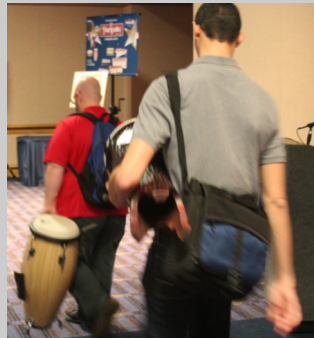
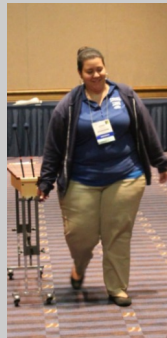
FMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

PRACTICALLY PERFECT POEMS PRESENTED BY KATIE GRACE MILLER

This was a fun session about taking great poetry and teaching music concepts. There were so many possibilities to reinforce and introduce new musical material through poetry that it seemed almost limitless. Katie Grace Miller presented poetry based activities that focused on rhythm, solfege, instruments, playing recorder, and different cultures. The activities could also be used to reinforce reading and literacy skills. Really a great session!

Many of the activities I could do right away! Typically I've used poetry as a means to teach rhythmic concepts, but now I will incorporate many of these ideas to help develop the skills of my students in new, refreshing ways.

♪ Andrew Smith, Bay Crest Elementary



A parade of instruments were transported by Council members from room-to-room in order to facilitate each session of the FMEA Conference.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC AND THE COMMON CORE

How many elementary music teachers does it take to plan a "Close Read" lesson? Well, only one, but it sure is more fun to plan it with a room full of colleagues! If you haven't attended one of the "Applying the Common Core State Standards in the Elementary Music Classroom" trainings, you're missing out. The training features the presentation of a model Close Read lesson, and addresses many common questions, such as "How much time should I be spending on Close Read lessons?", and "What should they look like?", "What exactly is considered 'rich text' in music?", and "What's the difference between Text Rendering and Close Reading?" You'll learn how to implement text coding techniques within your lessons, you'll find out just how many of the CCSS you are already using with your students, and much more! Come join us and let us show you how to make the Common Core State Standards work for you and your students. Seats are filling up! Register now on PDS.

♪ Jodie Donahoo, Bryant Elementary

Here are some comments made by recent participants:

"Very practical info I can use on Monday."

"I am leaving with a better understanding of how to implement close reading in musical listening activities."

"Thank you to the facilitators for making it so relevant to our needs."

SEFFNER BELLFEST

Four teachers, four Handbell choirs, four schools, 42 students, and countless hours of rehearsal. What could all of these things possibly add up to? The first annual Seffner BellFest that took place on December 19th, 2013.

Every two years, the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council plans new topics to become part of a two-year-focus-plan for the council. This school year was the start of a new plan, and one of the topics chosen as a focus is Community Performances. Four elementary music teachers are excited to be the first ones to take on this endeavor. These teachers are: Kathryn Jurado from Limona Elementary, Carol Baccoli from Lopez Elementary, Lindsay Blanc from Potter Elementary, and myself, Kimberly Oppermann, from Seffner Elementary. These four teachers brought their Handbell choirs together to participate in an event where students had the opportunity to meet new people, work with various musicians, and watch other Handbell Choirs, and appreciate the ensemble of which they are all a part.

The teachers worked together to prepare and plan for this event. On the day of the concert, the students met at the host school at 4:00pm. They used the time before the concert to rehearse their pieces in the unfamiliar performance venue as well as have a chance to play through the version of *Jingle Bells* that was to be the grand finale. *Jingle Bells* was arranged by Carol Baccoli. After working with their own groups, to prepare not only their own music but the finale piece, the teachers were excited to hear what *Jingle Bells* would sound like with all four bell choirs at once. If you have never heard four bell choirs performing together on one piece, we would definitely say it is something you have to hear! After the quick dress rehearsal, the students were fed a dinner of pizza and water. At 7:00pm, it was showtime! The students played their pieces musically and the audience was excited! When it was time for the grand finale, I don't think anyone expected the sound of all of the students playing together. I think so many students working with Handbells in such great harmony was an experience no one in the room that night is soon to forget.

All in all, this event was an amazing experience and I am thrilled that my students got to participate and learn from other students that play the same instrument! It is not often that Handbell choirs get together in this manner! We want to thank all of the administrators at Limona, Lopez and Potter for supporting their teachers and students in starting these ensembles at their schools. We especially want to thank the administration of Seffner Elementary, Mrs. Giles and Mrs. Rush for agreeing to let us host the event at their school. We also want to thank Chris at the Seffner Papa Johns for helping out by donating 5 of the pizzas so we could have our dress rehearsal and feed the students dinner. Lastly, thank you to the parents who supported their children and brought them to this extra event. We are very happy with the result of the event and can't wait for the Second Annual Seffner BellFest next year!

♪ Kimberly Oppermann, Seffner Elementary, HCEMEC Past President



Potter Elementary, left,
and
Limona Elementary, right,
perform in the first
Handbell Festival.



Tech Tidbits

Be sure to "Like" the SDHC Fine Arts Festival 2014 Facebook page. Encourage your FAF students' parents to do so as well, to stay informed of Fine Arts Festival announcements!

SAVE-THE-DATE

APR
17

FAF INSTRUMENTAL REHEARSALS BEGIN

APR
24

FAF CHORAL REHEARSALS BEGIN

MAY
1

ELEMENTARY MUSIC TESTING BEGINS

MAY
9

ELEMENTARY FINE ARTS BANQUET
Museum of Science and Industry

MAY
22

ELEMENTARY FINE ARTS FESTIVAL
David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts



Students from Limona, Lopez, Potter, and Seffner Elementary Schools perform in the finale of the Handbell Festival.



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Excellence in Education

School Board

Carol W. Kurdell, Chair
Susan L. Valdes, Vice Chair
Doretha W. Edgecomb
April Griffin
Candy Olson
Cindy Stuart
Stacy R. White, Pharm.D.

Superintendent of Schools

MaryEllen Elia

Supervisor of Elementary Music

Melanie Faulkner

2013-2014 HCEMEC Leadership Team

Executive Board

Tausha Honey, President
Jeff Henson, President-Elect
Kim Oppermann, Past President
Jennifer LeBlanc, Treasurer
Natalie Epstein, Secretary
Melanie Faulkner,
Elementary Music Supervisor

Committee Chairs

Advocacy
Lorri Naylor
Musical Heritage
Carol Baccoli
& Nikki Schmucker
Technology
Jennifer Edelblute & Steve Florio

Coordinators

Fine Arts Festival
Betty Trascritti & Laura Mathews
FAF T-shirts
Kathryn Jurado
Young Songwriters' Symposium
Convention
Sean Moats & Joey Willoughby

Social
Tracy Messina & Juan Rios

Member at Large
Jonathan Hunt

Mentoring
Jennifer LeBlanc

PLC Coordinators
Kyla Bailey & Krista Patnode

Member at Large
Jonathan Hunt

Mentoring
Jennifer LeBlanc

PLC Coordinators
Kyla Bailey & Krista Patnode

www.sdhc.k12.fl.us