

Volume 5, Number 4

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



FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

A PARENT'S VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

Amazing! That is the perfect word to describe the Fine Arts Festival concert, May 22 at the Straz Center. As this journey began with my son, Cade, announcing his selection to participate in the All County Chorus, I wondered how it would all come together. He explained that a total of 600 students, chorale and instrumental, would work to learn and perform various pieces of music over a few weeks. My husband and I were very excited for our son and thankful for this opportunity. We committed to ensure Cade would attend every rehearsal, weekly, with the help of family and friends.

The excitement grew as Cade brought home his chorus folder stuffed with sheet music and a CD recording of his singing part to learn. The music was challenging and very different from anything he had ever attempted. As the weeks went by, I would catch Cade singing his part anywhere and everywhere, even asking me to play the CD in the car! Rehearsals were days he really looked forward to, meeting new friends with commonalities, and doing something he loved to do more than anything. (SING!) I always knew there would be pure joy in his smile as he walked to the car in the pick-up line after practice. What a satisfying experience for a child who loves music!

⌘ Continued on page 3 ⌘

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



Above: Members of the Honors Handbells are in rapt attention as they follow their music and conductor.

Below: The Honors World Drumming always get the audience on their feet with their infectious grooves.



Above: Honors Orff students show off their skills in the highly rhythmic "Axel F".

Below: The many faces of the East Chorus as they prepare to take the stage.



♪ Photo Credits: Jen Edelblute, Cork Elementary, Technology Co-Chair

ALL-COUNTY CHORUS, FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT!

When I was a kid, I was in All County Chorus. This year my daughter, Destiny McAfee, had the honor, and the difference is night and day. We didn't have the ensemble of instruments and we certainly didn't have a venue like the Straz!

The current All-County Chorus program (Fine Arts Festival) is much more organized and the kids performing were well-prepared. I also noticed that there are a lot more people involved behind the scenes, but maybe that's because I'm an adult now and recognize the amount of work involved. What a production! I'm proud of all the Hillsborough County faculty and students who had a part in this. May All County Chorus get better for years to come!

♪ Eric McAfee, Seminole Heights Elementary Parent

A PARENT'S VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

⊕ Continued from page 1 ⊕

The excitement peaked as performance week approached. Cade described his rehearsal at the Straz Center on the big stage as “reaaaaally cool!” He was so eager for us to see and hear the concert, especially the finale where all the students perform together! I wasn’t quite sure what to expect in this grand performance, but I knew my son was enjoying every minute of it! (He even got a t-shirt to wear.) Cade’s enthusiasm for this event was so contagious, that his brother, sister, and both sets of grandparents had to see this for themselves.

The curtain lifted and the mass chorus performed their first number beautifully! WOW! What a magnificent sound. The night continued with one performance after another filled with talented children dazzling us with their gifts! From choruses, handbells, xylophones, drums, and strings...we were amazed and found ourselves reminding each other of their ages throughout the night. We left the concert with so much pride for not just our son, but for every child who shared in this performance. What a journey for them all! Together they combined efforts and created beautiful music and unforgettable memories! As a musician myself, I know how important a director can be, and my appreciation and awe extends to all the adults who worked so hard to create this experience. We were truly amazed and our son’s passion for music has grown by leaps and bounds! BRAVO!!!

♪ Kim Gifford, Cork Elementary Parent



Students of the East (Red), Central (Yellow), and West (Blue) Choruses open the 2014 Fine Arts Festival.



Left, Mrs. McReynolds leads the Mass Choir.

Right: The Violins of the Honors Orchestra display their musicality



2014 FINE ARTS FESTIVAL CONDUCTORS

Mass Choirs, Deah McReynolds

West Chorus	Central Chorus	East Chorus	Orff	Handbells	World Drumming	Orchestra
Kyla Bailey	Deon Nelson & Carol Pollock	James Rigby	Jia Leikensohn	Kathy Jurado & Kim Oppermann	Tracy Messina	Dr. William Wiedrich

MULTICULTURAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

2014 Multicultural Music Festival Performers

Mabry Elementary

Matthew Maines,
Music Specialist

Philip Shore Elementary

Vickie Massmann,
Music Specialist
Angela Amenta,
Italian Specialist
Stacy O'Neill, Dance Director

Canella Elementary

Juan Rios, Music Specialist

Sessums Elementary

Tracy Messina, Music Specialist

Lanier Elementary

Kyla Bailey, Music Specialist

Potter Elementary

Charles Williams & Lindsay
Blanc, Music Specialists

McDonald Elementary

Krista Patnode,
Music Specialists

BT Washington Elementary

Sonia Miller, Music Specialist

Trinity 7

The Lovelace Family
(representing Seminole
Elementary)

Musical Heritage Committee:

Nikki Schmucker and
Carol Baccoli, Co-chairs
Lindsay Blanc
Justin Daniels
Vickie Massmann
Ben Vyborny
Thomas Waistell

This year marked the 6th annual Multicultural Music Festival! Philip Shore Elementary played host to this exciting event, held from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm, on March 28, 2014. This year saw vendors Music Showcase and Sam Ash, as well as coffee provided by Starbucks and doled out by HCEMEC social co-chair Rose Lathers. Sigma Alpha Iota provided a make and take activity for children. Any interested child was allowed to create their own shekere from household materials such as paper plates, soda bottles, pasta, pipe cleaners and beads. They were a big hit!

A new addition to the festival was a food truck. Aloha To Go was parked outside the festival under an overhang and provided "Hawaiian Home Cooking," including Hawaiian style pork and chicken dishes. Aloha To Go accommodated the less gastronomically adventurous with fare such as hot dogs and sodas.

Shore's music teacher, Vickie Massmann, and Principal Jaime Gerding were kind enough to provide yet another change for this year: most of the instruments used during the performances were Shore's! What an amazing contribution to the festival! Many compliments and thanks were provided by teachers and participants who appreciated the availability and did not have to lug Orff instruments and tubanos from the far reaches of the county. Most groups simply had to bring their own mallets and perhaps another item or two not provided. Having most of the equipment available also lent to a speedier set up for each group and less downtime in between performances.

Performances this year represented the school district very well. Entertaining and diverse, we heard steel drums, hand bells, songs in Italian, incredible Orff and drumming ensembles as well as a few modern bands. Thank you to the teachers who prepared their students so well and orchestrated the rehearsals and transportation of their talented children.

The evening concluded with a community drum circle led by Nate Strawbridge of Crestwood Elementary. It's hard to sit still when Nate's in charge! Children of all ages were playing drums, moving, dancing, and having a good 'ol time! It is an incredible thing to witness. If you did not attend this year, make sure you have plans to attend next year's event!

Thank you to the members of the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council who participated in the setting up and running of this event! We couldn't have done it without you!

♪ Nikki Schmucker, Seminole Elementary, Multicultural Committee Co-Chair



The 2014 Multicultural Festival featured performances ranging from World Drums and Orff Ensembles to Rock Bands, and everything in between.



Members of the Lowry, left, and B.T. Washington, above, Rock Bands play a real live "gig" at Beef 'o' Brady's to support the first Music Education Spirit Week

MUSIC EDUCATION SPIRIT WEEK: LITTLE KIDS ROCK BENEFIT

ADVOCACY NEWS

Our newest program in advocacy and community involvement was a huge success!

This year Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council launched the first "Music Education Spirit Week, Little Kids Rock Benefit". Beef O'Brady's Restaurants partnered with the Music Council to host LKR Bands at locations throughout the county during the March 24-28, 2014 event. The restaurant chain donated a portion of the sales to Little Kids Rock, who makes rock band instruments available to a staggering 25,000 thousand students in Hillsborough County Schools. Between sales and generous additional donations from Beef O'Brady's, \$800.00 will be donated to Little Kids Rock! The pictures tell the story!

♪ Lorri Naylor, Lowry Elementary, HCEMEC Advocacy Chair

FINE ARTS BANQUET

On May 9, 2014 Music Specialists, Administrators and School Board Members, and their guests, gathered at the Museum of Science and Industry to celebrate another year of great accomplishments in Elementary Music. In keeping with the "Night on Broadway" theme, many guests helped provide the entertainment by singing show-tunes, and though it was not the Tony Awards a few attendees were recognized for their contribution to Music Education this year!

RISING STAR AWARD



The HCEMEC Rising Star Award was presented to Justin Daniels from Riverhills Elementary School. The Rising Star Award is presented to a Hillsborough County Music Specialist who is in their first 5 years of teaching and demonstrate exemplary teaching practices and a love for his or her students.

According to those who nominated him, Justin Daniels is considered a leader at Riverhills and has done a number of things to benefit the students, staff, community and the Music department in our district. Professionally he has been an extraordinary resource in planning and implementing engaging lessons for our students. Furthermore those who have the benefit of working with him are truly impressed by his knowledge and willingness to participate in all programs that can benefit his or his students learning.

MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The HCEMEC Elementary Music Educator of the Year Award was presented to Ernesta Chicklowski from Roosevelt Elementary School. The Music Educator of the Year Award is presented to a Hillsborough County Music Specialist who has taught 5 or more years and demonstrates exemplary teaching practices and a love for his or her students.

Ernesta has developed an outstanding music program at Roosevelt that incorporates a number of experiences for all of the children. She not only teaches the standards and expectations of Hillsborough County Public schools but also incorporates a variety of opportunities for students to find their love of music through drumming, rock band, chorus, bells, guitars and drama. As a teacher, she gives the students a positive experience that they learn to love her class and they also discover talents that they did not know exist. She is a devoted music teacher who enhances the experiences that students have, therefore, the students at Roosevelt have a high level of confidence that will support them throughout their lives in a variety of ways.



THE ENCORE AWARD

The HCEMEC Encore Award is presented to an individual, business, group, or other entity that helps to further our cause of Music Education in Hillsborough County. Past recipients include Jim Morris of Morrisound Studio and The Patel Conservatory.

The 2014 Encore Award was presented to Little Kids Rock. Through it's own philanthropy, Little Kids Rock has provided rock band instruments to over 25,000 elementary students in Hillsborough County. In addition to their grants of acoustic and electric guitars, keyboards, and drumsets, Little Kids Rock has also provided hours of Professional Development, support, and resources for the Elementary Music Specialists and Secondary Music Teachers of Hillsborough County.



PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

The HCEMEC Elementary Principal of the Year Award is presented to Administrators who exhibit tireless support for Music Education. The HCEMEC Elementary Principal of the Year Award for 2014 was presented to Rachel Walters of Canella Elementary. Mrs. Walters was nominated by Canella Music Specialist Juan Rios.

According to Juan Rios, Mrs. Walters advocates for the Canella music program to the PTA, providing support for allocation of money to be spent for music every year.

She supports the acquisition of new technology, whether is through the PTA, grant writing, or school funds. Furthermore, when the school gets a computer refresh, she ensures that the music room also receives new computers. Additionally, she often provides funds for microphones, cables, drum heads and other small accessories which are necessary for our classrooms and performances.

Mrs. Walters understands how important music is for a child's complete education and supports all music related activities at the school, always publicly congratulating students and providing the emotional support they need.

Mrs. Walters understands how important music is for a child's complete education and supports all music related activities at the school, always publicly congratulating students and providing the emotional support they need.



Kingswood, left, and Canella, right, participate in the Music Education Spirit Week.



PAST PRESIDENT'S YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Today is the day after the Fine Arts Festival. I find this a great day to reflect on the past year with the Fine Arts Festival being a great culmination to another successful year. We have accomplished so much this year as music teachers, meaning that our students, in turn, have accomplished so much as musicians.

In November, the Young Songwriters Symposium allowed students to compose, record and perform their own original songs. In December, many teachers put on their Winter Concerts, with many students getting to perform both at their schools and in many different community performances for the Holidays. My own school participated in the first annual Seffner BellFest, where teachers and Handbell choirs from 4 schools worked together to put on one concert in a festival format. This was a great opportunity for students to experience other Handbell ringers outside of their own choir.

We started off the 2014 portion of our year with new ideas and the Elementary All State Chorus performance at the January FMEA Convention. As we went through March, we had the Multicultural Festival. April brought preparations and rehearsals for the Fine Arts Festival. Since the Fine Arts Festival is so fresh in my memory, I am always excited to see this event come together, and this year was no exception. It is a truly amazing experience to see that many students participate in such a great opportunity and witness the fact that all the teachers behind the scenes make it look seamless. In May, we honored our award winners and grant recipients, as well as celebrated our year together at the Fine Arts Banquet held at MOSI. May also brings us into our Fine Arts Testing.

This doesn't even include all of the things that some of you do. Many of you participate in other events and do amazing things with your students every day. Some of us wrote and received grants this year (outside of the music council). We had music teachers nominated for the Teacher of the Year and Ida S. Baker awards at their school.

I know that as we reach this time of year, many of us feel stressed, frazzled, and definitely ready for summer. As I mentioned in the banquet, in honor of the theme: "A Night on Broadway", we *only* have 525,600 minutes in a year (less than that in a school year, but who's counting?). We often feel like the minutes we have with our students are not enough. But I ask you to reflect on your year and see how much you, your colleagues and your students really have accomplished this year. We all have plans for next year, we're already thinking about what can be better! Don't forget to remember everything you have done for your students this year, allowing them to succeed more and more each year.

As we look ahead to next year, the Music Council has many things in store, including all of our traditional events and more Professional Development Opportunities. Be on the look-out for all the new opportunities as well as the ones you are used to hearing about. Have a restful, relaxing, rejuvenating summer. See you next year!

♪ Kimberly Oppermann, Seffner Elementary, HCEMEC Past President



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
Sean Moats & Joey Willoughby
Convention
Tracy Messina & Juan Rios

Social

Rosalie Lathers &
Chrissy Russell
On The Upbeat!

Cliff Fouts

Member at Large

Jonathan Hunt

Mentoring

Jennifer LeBlanc

PLC Coordinators

Kyla Bailey & Krista Patnode

www.sdhc.k12.fl.us