

Volume 6, Number 1

# 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

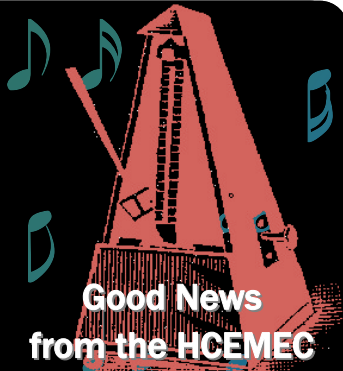
Kimberly Oppermann, Past-President

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



*Above: "Sweet Biscuits and Honey" perform at the opening of PSD 2014*

The journey has begun! It's an exciting journey and one that carries many surprises throughout the year. Who knew that a copyright session at Professional Study Day would bring about such thought provoking discussion? How many of our students will be selected for this year's Elementary All-State Chorus?

Can you say we rocked at Professional Study Day? What a great way to kick off the new year with our very own rock band, "Sweet Biscuits and Honey"! Our rockers were led by Sean Moats, "the drummer is first" (Kingswood); Tracy Lisi, vocalist/keys (Morgan Woods); Dann Shea, guitar (Tampa Bay Blvd); Billy Whiting, guitar (McKitrick); Juan Rios, bass (Cannella); Joey Willoughby, trombone (Egypt Lake); Nate Strawbridge, trumpet (Crestwood); and Matt Stone, piccolo trumpet (Mort).

We also rocked with practical and effective real music-world applications. Orff technique and repair with Jeff Henson (Hammond); Yvonne Ayala-Lugo (Lithia Springs) and Jennifer Edelblute (Roland Park) taking choral techniques and rehearsals to the next level and Arlene Haack making connections with Domain 1. Special thanks to Quaver's Marvelous World of Music, Little Kids Rock and J.W. Pepper for their support and expertise. Lunch, sponsored by Quaver, was a great social time for our new teachers...and speaking of new teachers...

s Continued on page 2 s

# 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 life-long music education.

Annual dues are \$20 per member. Checks should be made out to "Music Council" and mailed via school mail to: Jennifer Leblanc, Chiles Elementary, Route #3

# SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

⌘ Continued from page 1 ⌘

Welcome to our Elementary Music Newbies! We are happy to have the following teachers join our Elementary Music Faculty:

Victor Ezquerra, DeSoto Elementary  
 Carrie Davis, Tinker Elementary  
 Stephanie Foreman, Jackson Elementary  
 Yolanda Monge-Rodriguez, Just Elementary  
 Tony Negron, Edison Elementary  
 Stephanie Peacock, Simmons ESE  
 Leticia Pons-Riveron, Just Elementary  
 Adam Radwanski, Thompson Elementary  
 Caitlin Snell, Twin Lakes Elementary  
 Jabril Williams. B.T. Washington

Remember...we have the opportunity every day to change lives through music education. Make the most of it!

♪ *Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Music*



LKR students get a real world experience touring backstage before the Dave Mathews Band Concert on July 16th.



# TECHNOLOGY IN MUSIC EDUCATION

The Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council is excited to introduce to you our newest committee, "Technology in Music Education" (T.I.M.E.). This committee has been created to assist music educators in implementing and utilizing technology not only in their instruction and record keeping, but during student led performances. We look forward to working with teachers during one-on-one sessions, mini-trainings and virtually through products like Facetime and Skype.

The Conservatory is a great place to start finding out about T.I.M.E. Check out the "Technology in Music Education" folder. There you will find great apps for the classroom, "how to" documents, tips and tricks and general information to help you incorporate technology in your classroom. Feel free to contact me anytime with any technology questions you may have. Why wait? Now is the T.I.M.E.!

♪ *Tracy Lisi, Morgan Woods Elementary, Technology in Music Education Coordinator*

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Hi everyone! I am Betty Trascritti, music teacher at Bryant Elementary and social media coordinator for the music council. This is a new position created for the council this year and it is their vision that everyone will be well-informed and well-connected so that we can have better communication throughout our large district. I would like to do this in a number of ways.

First, please join the music council and pay your \$20 dues. This is the most important thing you can do to stay "well-informed." We provide minutes of our meetings each month as well as our quarterly publication, "On the Upbeat." Second, please consider being added to our music teacher directory. Many of you had your picture taken at Professional Day but there are many that did not. If you would like to be added to the directory, please e-mail me a picture and fill out the form at <http://music.mysdhc.org/elem-music/directory>.

Third, please "like" our page on Facebook. You can search for "Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council." We will post important event information to our Facebook page and pictures of music council events. Just remember, only access this page outside of school hours. Last, please sign up for our "Remind" system. We will send out text message alerts when important information goes out from Melanie or the music council. We will also remind you about important deadlines and events such as Fine Arts Festival rehearsals. To sign up please send the message "@mus1415" to the number 201-676-4153. You will be asked to give your full name to be added to our address list. You can read more information about the Remind system at <https://www.remind.com/join/mus1415>.

I hope everyone will have a great school year and let's stay connected!

♪ Betty Trascritti, Bryant Elementary, Social Media Coordinator



## SUMMER CAMP



A summer music camp for 3rd - 5th grade students led by elementary music teachers Jeff Henson and Juan Rios was held for four full days on June 16 - 19 at Hammond Elementary School. Attending students came from Hammond, Bryant, Citrus Park, and Cannella Elementary Schools. Students participated in a variety of musical experiences including recorder playing, guitars, world drumming, folk dance, Orff instruments, and more. Each camp day had it's own theme, such as Tropical Tuesday, Wild about the 80's Wednesday, and Techno Thursday! Camp participants also received a special visit from Crestwood Elementary music teacher Nathaniel Strawbridge for a special high energy world drumming session.

♪ Jeff Henson, Hammond Elementary, HCEMEC President-Elect

## JOIN

Please see the membership information on the opposing page!

## DIRECTORY

Send a picture to Betty Trascritti on IDEAS!

## FACEBOOK

Search for Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council on Facebook and like our page!

## REMIN 101

Send the text message @mus1415 To 201-676-4153

**LITTLE KIDS ROCK** has been a part of Music Education in Hillsborough County for more than 6 years. Since January of 2008, more than 25,000 students have had access to instruments and modern band instruction through generous grants and professional development provided by LKR!

Little Kids Rock trains public school teachers and donates all of the instruments, curricular resources and support they need to ensure that their kids receive the right to rock!

In 2014, Hillsborough began giving back to this program that has transformed many music rooms across the county. Whether through participation in the first Music Education Spirit Week, which raised \$800 for LKR, performing at the Tampa Jam Summit, or participating in the LKR Modern Band RockFest 2014 in Fort Collins, Colorado, at which 7 of our colleagues presented and shared their Modern Band expertise with music educators from across the nation, Hillsborough Rocks, literally and figuratively!

## HUGE TEACHER

While in Colorado, I attended a workshop that focused on bringing Little Kids Rock to the primary grades. Lessons were presented that showed how young students with limited motor development could still learn about rhythm, sequencing, and patterns while rocking out on drums and guitar! I am excited to finally be able to incorporate LKR effectively in the primary grades!

*Rebecca Stillo, Lomax Elementary, Advocacy Co-Chair*

AND

## STUDENT IMPACT!

Little Kids Rock is an amazing organization. My daughter is a part of it at her elementary school, and she has learned so much. Her teacher, Juan Rios, is great at working with the kids in the band and they sound SO good. My daughter has gained confidence and has really been able to demonstrate her musical talent through LKR.

In this past year, she played the bass, and even sang a song, which really built her confidence.

To top things off, LKR gave my daughter's group the ultimate experience...to meet REAL artists. This past summer LKR brought the group together to meet Stefan Lessard from the Dave Mathews Band while they were in town. Stefan took the time to just talk with these kids...very big of someone at that level to give time to children.

She was totally amazed at how kind he was. They also had the opportunity to tour back stage and see how things are set up for a concert. A truly wonderful experience.

LKR has been, and I hope continues to be, a wonderful part of my daughter's world. She enjoys playing music and singing. Amazing that there is such an organization to bring these experiences to children.

*Wendy Yepes, Cannella Elementary Teacher  
and parent of an LKR student*

# HILLSBOROUGH ROCKS WITH LITTLE KIDS ROCK!

## ROCKFEST PRESENTERS:

Lindsey Blanc,  
Potter  
Nathan Drawdy,  
Plant City High

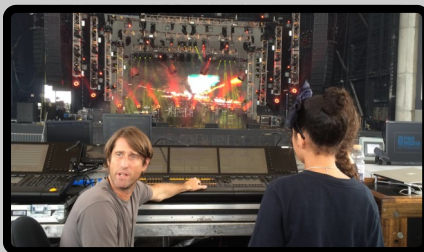
David Hendricks,  
Oak Grove  
Sonia Miller,  
BT Washington

Sean Moats,  
Kingswood  
Dann Shea,  
Tampa Bay Blvd.

Danielle Vega,  
Chiles

Steve Danielsson, John Flora and Gay Heimbauer are visionary at Classroom Management, respect and rapport, and destroying the effective filter. Creating a Safe environment for their students to thrive and participate without fear of being ridiculed is their forte. *Classroom Management for the 2010s* was truly worth the trip to Colorado, covering ideas on how to hone your students' attention, diminish interruption, and supply them the freedom they crave within your musical world. Steve Danielsson also taught a class on *Everyone is a Singer* where he emphasized the idea of a Safe classroom. Getting up in front of the students and purposely performing poorly, never showing that you're frustrated about it and simply saying, "Well that didn't sound very good but I'm sure I'll get it next time, just give me some more time," was honestly, mind-blowingly simple! We model for our students what to do when something goes wrong, or when something doesn't go our way, to know and understand what went wrong, and not waste time complaining about it in order to make a plan for success and go for it!

♪ Nathan Drawdy, Plant City High School Chorus Director



On July 16th, 2014, the Cannella Elementary Little Kids Rock Modern Band had the privilege to visit Stefan Lessard, bass player of the Dave Mathews Band. Stefan welcomed them in his tour bus and talked to them about his experience as a musician and as a member of the Dave Mathews Band, and his involvement with Little Kids Rock. The students performed two songs for him and Stefan even joined in to play with them with his upright bass. He took the time to answer questions from the students and to take pictures with each of them.

The students also had a full access, guided backstage tour in which they saw all the sound and light equipment, musicians instruments and met with many of the people who make the concert happen. They were also given tickets for the concert!! What a great experience for these kids. The day after, Stefan Lessard posted in twitter about the students visit. Super awesome!!!! Thank you to Little Kids Rock and Dann Shea for making this happen for my students.

♪ Juan Rios, Cannella Elementary, Convention Coordinator

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## ...IN THE MUSIC ROOM

### ASD IN THE MUSIC ROOM

This summer Alisa Strike from Frost Elementary and Carole Pearce from Nelson Elementary presented a workshop about Autism in the Music Classroom. Here are some important tips to help you out!!!

- 1. KNOW YOUR STUDENTS!!** Don't hesitate to ask for important information, especially medical and behavioral concerns. It doesn't have to be a whole IEP, just pertinent facts that you need to know for your circumstances. You have the right to know!
- 2. ASK FOR HELP!** The classroom teachers can offer helpful information to keep the class under control. Perhaps they already have a behavior system in place. Use it or adapt it! Likewise, the paraprofessionals (aids) that come to music with the class should be an integral part of the lesson. Include them in the activities and conversations! Make them feel needed in a polite way! Otherwise, they may think they can take a long bathroom break!
- 3. MEET THE STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE EMOTIONALLY!** If they enter the music room wound up, choose music, preferably "live," that is upbeat! Gradually use the music to bring the students to where you want them to be!
- 4. USE VISUALS!!** Post pictures of your activities on the board or wall. All students love structure and routine, knowing what's coming up next! Have students be in charge of arranging or taking down the visuals as you begin or complete the activities!
- 5. THINK "REPETITION!!"** It's ok to do the same lesson for several weeks! Keep a repertoire of songs going, adding only one new song every so often. Once you know your students, you'll be able to figure out how often you should change things up!

*♪ Carole Pearce, Nelson Elementary*

### INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS IN THE MUSIC ROOM

This summer music teachers from all over Hillsborough County gathered to learn how to integrate technology into the music classroom. We came as amateurs and pros and we discovered, together, all of the great things interactive whiteboards can bring to our classrooms. Through cooperative effort we explored SMARTBoard technology and created several new lesson plans for interactive whiteboards that we could take directly into the classroom and use with our students.

The best part was that we had a great time doing it! Our trainers (Jen Edelblute, Roland Park K-8; Val Smith, Essrig; and Cliff Fouts, Deer Park) not only taught us how to use this technology, but also encouraged us to discover it for ourselves. They helped us to create engaging and interesting lessons and helped us discuss new and imaginative ways of introducing our classes to music. I knew quite a bit about interactive SMARTBoards coming into this training thanks to the support of my co-teacher, and one of the training's facilitators, Jen Edelblute. Even having all of that knowledge beforehand I felt as though I learned a great deal from my colleagues in this training that will carry into my classroom and hopefully to my students as well!

We all walked away carrying a great deal of new knowledge to bring back to our students and our schools to continue making learning fun for them (and for ourselves). I cannot wait to see what other trainings the district has to offer its music teachers to help us use the technology we've been provided to continue to serve our students in the best way possible!

*♪ Kaitlyn Sanzo, Forest Hills Elementary*

## PORTFOLIOS IN THE MUSIC ROOM

In July, Kyla Bailey and I had an epic opportunity to share something we have found to be very successful in our classrooms – Student Portfolios! Our summer workshop focused on creating a living document, facilitated by the students to show their growth, knowledge, and understanding in Music.

With the amazing group of teachers in attendance we discussed formatting and implementation of portfolios as well as ideas for data collection, collaborative work, differentiation, and student creation/composition, and how these things correlate to the EET rubric.

Use of these portfolios not only invokes pride in each student as they can show off their work, to parents or other teachers, it gives our classrooms the validity they deserve. Our academic environment is data driven, and while teaching such a large student population, sometimes successful documentation can be a challenge. Having student portfolios gives each student a place, and the time, to collect and organize all the awesome things they create in Music Class.

Portfolios look different in each of our classrooms as we develop expectations that fit the needs of our own student population, but the end results will foster an environment of appreciation and understanding of music.

As this year gets started, a reminder to those who have implemented portfolios for the first time or have done a healthy overhaul: Rome wasn't built in a day – give yourself and your students time to adjust. We look forward to the great ideas that will be shared as your student portfolios are put to work!

♪ Jen Edelblute, Roland Park K-8

## H.O.T. IN THE MUSIC ROOM

HOT. Higher Order Thinking. A deceptively difficult concept for even veterans – and certainly more than a brow crinkle for new teachers. Any specialist will agree that the very nature of what we do and ask of our students is higher order, but phrasing it in a question a seven-year-old can answer, and finding an appropriate time to let them reflect, share with each other, and share with you, seems like a complex skill in itself.

I admit that before taking the HOT training, I thought simply asking them *any* kind of question was enough to satisfy 3b: Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques. Well – *no*. Not quite.

After struggling with it for a while I managed to sneak in a quality question here and there, but my instruction was still lacking something. Something in bold letters and in the title – *discussion techniques*. I was more than willing to sit in a summer session, specializing in HOT questions in the music classroom, determined to figure this HOT thing out.

From the training, I took away a few things that did not wash away with the waves – *preplan* the question. With all of the possible hiccups that could occur before its fruition into an awe-inspiring discussion starter, *write* it in your lesson plan, so it is not forgotten, and *give* them time to think about it.

My particular subject is strings, a performance-based class focused on playing the stringed instruments – in my case, violin. It is especially challenging to wrap my mind around the concept of *talking* about something based on motor skills, practice, and posture. However, with this training, I discovered that my art has a lot of subtleties – analysis, self and peer assessment, physics, history, art, literature, math, body awareness, expression, the ability to create – a truly endless list.

With suddenly so many options, a game plan, and armed with the right verbiage, I wonder now if there is a question I can ask that is *not* higher order?

♪ Joannie Sears, Lincoln Elementary

# CONTENT AREA TRAINING

As a first year teacher, I was overwhelmed by the amount of information that is thrown at you right from the start of being processed as a teacher in this county. I remember walking out of the ISC shaking my head and wondering how I was ever going to learn the necessary lingo to be able to make it in the school system. From “PLC” to “IPDP” and many other acronyms, I had so many questions! I expected most of these questions to be answered for me at New Teacher Orientation, but even after a week there, my head was still spinning with even more information I needed to learn about! People have always told me that teaching is a very hard job, but I was already overwhelmed by the information I didn’t learn in college, and I had not even met my students yet! My time in Content Area Training, however, was a time where my questions and concerns were answered and my mind felt more at ease.

I was much more comfortable at Content Area Training than I had been at New Teacher Orientation because the information actually pertained to the subject I would be teaching! During CAT I was able to make some really good connections with other amazing music teachers within the district, as well as learn some very valuable tools on how to set up my room and just get the year started off on the right foot! I’m sure that I would not have been as successful with starting my first year of teaching without it. Speaking of my first year...I am so very grateful for the outpouring of support I have received as a brand new teacher to the county. Before the school year had even started I was contacted by many people who were willing to help and offer advice for a new school year. I am so overwhelmed by the support I see and feel in this county and I am so lucky to call myself one of your colleagues.

♪ Caitlin Snell, Twin Lakes Elementary

## SAVE-THE-DATE

- Nov 14** Young Songwriters’ Symposium Concert @ USF
- Nov 15** Little Kids Rock Training, go to [littlekidsrock.org](http://littlekidsrock.org) for info!
- Jan 10** HOT Questions Professional Development
- Jan 14** FMEA All-State Clinic-Conference @ Tampa Convention Center
- Mar 6** Music Education Spirit Week @ Beef ‘o Brady’s
- Mar 27** HCEMEC Multicultural Heritage Festival @ Philip Shore
- Apr 24** Fine Arts Banquet @ the Straz Center for the Performing Arts
- May 20** Fine Arts Festival @ the Straz Center for the Performing Arts



### 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

### 2014-2015 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 & Rebecca Stillo  
Musical Heritage  
Carol Baccoli  
& Nikki Schmucker  
Technology in Music Education  
Tracy Lisi

#### Coordinators

##### Professional Development

Kathryn Jurado

##### Social Media

Betty Trascritti

##### FAF T-shirts

Laura Mathews

##### Young Songwriters’ Symposium

Sean Moats & Joey Willoughby

##### Convention

Juan Rios

##### Social

Tracy Messina &

Rebecca Traenkner

##### On The Upbeat!

Cliff Fouts

##### Member at Large

Steven Florio

##### Mentoring

Jennifer LeBlanc

##### PLC Coordinators

Kyla Bailey & Justin Daniels

[www.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us)