

Volume 6, Number 2

ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council

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

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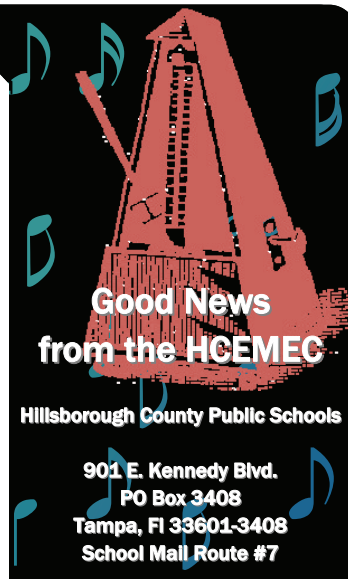
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**Good News
from the HCEMEC**

Hillsborough County Public Schools

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YOUNG SONGWRITERS SYMPOSIUM
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF STUDENT SONGWRITING!

The Young Songwriters' Symposium experience was enlightening, refreshing, and fun. As a new teacher in Hillsborough County, I went to the training and songwriting sessions with high expectations for this symposium, and all of my expectations were met!

At the one-day training, just for teachers, we explored the many possible ways a person has to write his or her thoughts. The strategies and activities presented at this training were very useful to help us understand the creative process as teachers, and for later when we would help our students bring their ideas together.

I was lucky my two Young Songwriter students were already on the path of composing and songwriting, since I have already used some of these strategies in my day-to-day classroom. They worked hard to present two great songs. We spent lunches and after school hours working on getting their ideas written down. For each of the new songwriting sessions we were excited to learn the next step, and the effort of each of these steps helped to make the final product flawless.

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ADVOCACY IN MUSIC EDUCATION

On Friday, September 12, 2014, schools across Hillsborough County and the rest of the United States joined together to celebrate the Bi-Centennial of the Star Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. For this day, organizers asked, "Americans far-and-wide and especially K-12 students throughout the United States sing patriotic songs—including "The Star-Spangled Banner" and discuss the history and significance of the anthem." We did just that! Music teacher, Anita Vani, at Citrus Park Elementary School led a school-wide Star Spangled singing on our local news station. Chiles Elementary, led by music teacher Jennifer LeBlanc, joined in by having a singing on the court as elementary, students took explore what the Star Spangled Banner meant to them. Teachers Jia Leikensohn and Lorri Naylor helped students define phrases from the song while examining original source documents to learn the historical value of our nation's anthem.



Anita Vani, at Citrus Park Elementary School led a school-wide Star Spangled singing on our local news station, led by Jennifer LeBlanc, school-wide singing well. At Lowry Elementary, the entire week to celebrate the Star Spangled Banner

♪ Lorri Naylor, Advocacy Co-chair, Lowry Elementary



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! Let's see what honors 2015 brings to Hillsborough County Music programs.

YOUNG SONGWRITERS' SYMPOSIUM

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF STUDENT SONGWRITING!

Young Songwriters' Symposium Coordinators

Sean Moats & Joey Willoughby

2014 YSS Participants

Lindsay Blanc, Potter
Jonathan Hunt, Hunter's Green
Kathryn McKamey, Reddick
Sean Moats, Kingswood
Juan Rios, Cannella
Nicole Schmucker, Seminole
Rebecca Stillo, Lomax
Matt Stone, Mort
Ingrith Tower, Doby
Charles Williams, Woodbridge
Joey Willoughby, Egypt Lake

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I will always remember the rehearsals with the band. My girls were so excited to sing with a live rock band! The recording session went quickly, but it was productive, and an experience that not a lot of young students, much less anyone of any age, has the privilege to experience! To record an original song in a professional recording studio is not something you do every day. The performances at the University of South Florida School of Music Concert Hall were very exciting, full of energy, and all of the kids who participated were prepared.

What I take from this experience are the friends I made as a teacher and the techniques and teaching strategies for songwriting, as well as the smiles of my students and their parents, and the great feeling that we all created something unique and powerful!

♪ Ingrith S. Tower, Doby Elementary



HCEMEC GRANTS

The Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council awards grants each year for Professional Development, Equipment, and Materials. At the Fine Arts Banquet in May of 2014 the Council awarded grants to nine HCEMEC members. In the following pages the awardees share how these grant funds were utilized to improve their teaching, improve their equipment, and improve the experience of each of their students!

Below, a large contingent of Hillsborough County Music Specialists attend the LKR Rockfest at Colorado State University.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: LKR ROCKFEST

Little Kids Rockfest 2014, held at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado, was an amazing experience! I am grateful to the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council for granting me the funds to attend Rockfest this year. It was four days of workshops, networking, and jamming! I felt privileged to be able to attend an event such as this as part of one of the largest groups in attendance. Tampa teachers rock!

The week was jam-packed with so many different sessions. When choosing my schedule over the summer, I had such a difficult time narrowing down my options! There was more than enough variety to pique many interests. From workshops to help first year LKR teachers with beginning students to sessions that presented ways to enrich your more advanced students, there was very little downtime. I chose a few highlights to share.

Did you know LKR is a great way to access the standards? Melissa Flail demonstrated some great ways to integrate LKR and the standards into your program. One of my favorites was a songwriting activity that involved fortune cookies and Dove Promises (and not just because I like chocolate!) Stuck on lyrics for a song? Write down your fortune, "borrow" the fortunes of two classmates, choose your favorite and begin your first line based on that! A snack and a song! Choose your chords and draw your melody any way you wish – with a line, shapes, notes – whatever works for you!

How can we incorporate small group work and centers into a Modern Band classroom? Gary Heimbauer shared many techie ways to allow for practice and individual help during one class session. "But how can you have that many children rockin' out on different things at the same time?" Good question! Gary introduced many forms of technology you may utilize: electric instruments, headphones and splitters, tablets, iRigs, Mini amps, computers, videos, software, the internet, and silent rehearsal modules. "But that costs money!" you say. Check out donorschoose.org, Target grants, Daddario grants, and many others. A little research can net a lot of resources!

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HCEMEC GRANTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: LKR ROCKFEST

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Nathan Drawdy, one of our own LKR teachers from Plant City, presented some arranging tidbits. Tips from Nathan: 1. Have a handle on all the basic aspects of each instrument in your Modern Band. 2. Understand the abilities and limitations of your students. 3. Choose songs that reinforce prior knowledge and provide areas of attainable growth. 4. Know what you expect from your students before you begin rehearsing so they can be successful. 5. Identify ways to chunk your songs into smaller practice pieces for your students.

Lindsay Blanc, another Tampa representative, KILLED it during her session “Step It Up!” She demonstrated ways to increase stage presence with your students. She provided different strategies and various moves each instrumentalist or vocalist can do on stage to really reel in the crowd. What an exciting room! Everyone was up and moving! If you see her, ask Lindsay to show you a few keyboard moves!

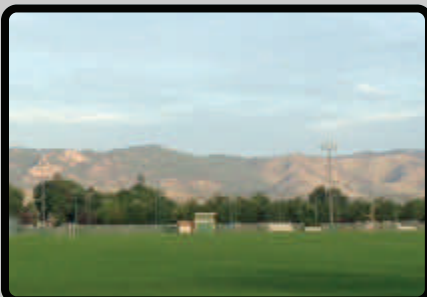
I would be remiss if I didn't mention the other Tampa area teachers who presented sessions at Rockfest: David Hendricks, Sonia Miller, Sean Moats, Dann Shea, and Danielle Vega. So many amazing workshops, so little time to attend them all! Everyone received rave reviews! Good job, Tampa crew!

Tuesday evening The Bohemian Foundation, a generous sponsor of Rockfest, provided a wonderful reception with delicious catering and live music performed by participants of Rockfest. It was silly and fun with sing-alongs and dancing. I was amazed by the pile of talent that was just hanging around the Ft. Collins Armory that night. The quality of musicianship surpassed my expectations.

Wednesday afternoon we were treated to a presentation by The Sessions with representatives from the music scene including Dom Famularo, Liberty DiVitto, Carlos Guzman, Christine Ohlman, Paul Quin and John Bryant. Founded by Jules Follett, supporter of LKR and “Patron Saint of Drummers and Tampa LKR Teachers,” The Sessions enriches artists' lives through education, focusing on empowering and sharpening their business skills in the pursuit of excellence. That evening, several of the panelists joined us for a barbeque and jam session.

I wasn't ready to leave Thursday. I'm happy to be part of such an amazing network of teachers who are truly passionate about educating children through music. I left with such amazing ideas, leaving me feel refreshed and ready to start the new school year. If you haven't yet trained to receive the Little Kids Rock/Modern Band curriculum, I highly suggest you look into it. If you already utilize the LKR curriculum, you HAVE to make it out to Colorado next year! It's definitely worth your time.

♪ *Nikki Schmucker, Seminole Elementary*



Left, the beautiful, mountainous
scenery of Fort Collins, Co.

&

Right, Dave Wish, founder of LKR





MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT: WORLD DRUMS

When I first stepped into my music room at Limona Elementary School 3 years ago, 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, 2 sets of bongos (each with a broken head) and 4 old hand drums. I came from 2 schools that had a wide variety of drums, unpitched percussion and plenty of Orff instruments, as well. I decided to lay out 3 main goals for myself, one of them being: Write grants and find alternate funding for the purchase of a class set of tubanos.

I am so pleased to say that, as of today, I am half-way there! Thanks in great part to our Music Council. With this Music Council grant, I was able to purchase 3 more tubanos for my music program. This summer I was thrilled to be able to attend the World Music Drumming Workshop for Level II Certification. With the 9 tubanos and 3 congas (and students sharing), I am now able to implement the World Music Drumming Curriculum. My students are already reaping the rewards, and so am I.

Thank you again Music Council!

♪ Kathryn Jurado, Limona Elementary



Left & Right:

*B.T. Washington students
putting the grant funds to
good use!*



MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT: AMPS!

I consider it a blessing to have received a grant for our music program at Booker T. Washington Elementary. Our Modern Band has been very active and plans to be just as active, if not more this upcoming year. Our long hours, hard work, and discipline proved to win the respect and attention of not only our community, but our administrators and teachers as well. Some of our amplifiers are old, worn, and broken and we needed to replace them to continue to service our students, school, and community. My students are so excited to receive the new equipment and our ready to work hard to prove that appreciation. Thank you Music Council for making this happen for our school.
Sonia Miller

New amplifiers will be used to amplify our keyboards and guitars for school and community performances. Two of our amplifiers are broken and distorted and the funds were spent to replace these and provide us with others to support our keyboards and guitars. My original proposals were for different vendors, but they were not available when we placed the order, so I checked with Guitar Center and they gave me a better price and discounts! They even calculated equipment protection into the total and did not charge for it. These items cost much more than what I paid for them!

♪ Sonia Miller, B.T. Washington Elementary



HCEMEC GRANTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT: MUSIC STANDS

It was a very confusing first year for us—all of us. New students to school, new students to Lincoln, and the majority of students new to the violin—and the school itself new to a strings program. We started with a class set of “practice violins,” waiting patiently for those black cases that occasionally would appear. It was like Christmas every other week—for myself and the students.

Week by week passed, and everyone was showing remarkable progress and pride learning how to play an instrument difficult to handle, let alone create a beautiful sound. Some students even took the extra initiative and rented their own violins. We had an after school group, two ensembles that met during the day, multiple performances, and three fourth graders go to Festival of Fine Arts. Even the kindergarten and first grade performed for their teachers at the end of the year.

However much we were not deficient in determination, talent, and perseverance, we were sorely lacking in one thing. We had no music stands. Though our creativity in coming up with solutions was admirable, it did not change the fact that an ensemble cannot function efficiently without something to put music on. I learned about the HCEMEC grant through the music specialist at my school, and submitted the paperwork with crossed fingers, hair, eyes, and toes.

This year, we have a set of 17 black wire stands that fold up and store away in their own bags. We are set to sail even further, looking more and more like an orchestra. This could not have happened without the awesome support that started this program, and the people that not only keep it running, but make it thrive.

A very happy school gives its thanks!

Joannie Sears, Lincoln Elementary

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: WORLD DRUMMING LEVEL 3

The grant I received was for the World Drumming Level 3 Workshop at USF on June 9th through the 13th. Wow, this was an intense workshop! Everything had to be memorized and there was no music written out! I learned different ways to play the drum. I learned more about Caribbean and Ghana drumming and singing. I also played the Ghanaian flute, gyil xylophone, and learned Latin drumming techniques.

This was a difficult workshop! If I get the chance to repeat this level, I will. On the last day every group performed for the other groups. Level 3 only had 5 people and there were times during the workshop I felt I could not keep going. I was afraid I was going to mess the group up, but my colleagues and instructors pushed me to continue, and I am very proud of myself that I did finish and I did remember most of the music. I will use several of the techniques I learned this week for teaching drums to my students and my drumming group, and for the honor drum group. I was so inspired after the workshop I wrote two songs for the drums! I am so grateful to the Council for giving me the opportunity to go to Level 3 World Drumming Workshop, Thank You!

Tracy Messina, Forest Hills Elementary



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: WORLD DRUMMING LEVEL 1

Recently I was awarded the HCEMEC grant for professional development which enabled me to receive my Level 1 World Music Drumming certification. I learned so much from this week long training and my students have already benefited from this truly rewarding experience.

Almost immediately after completing the training I put my new knowledge to use. I taught my own week long drumming class to the summer H.O.S.T students at my school in order to keep the material fresh in my mind. The students loved drumming together and feeling like part of an ensemble. Many of them had never played drums before and were thrilled at just the sight of the instruments. In just a week's time I could see that my students experienced a growth in their musical abilities. They became more confident with their drumming technique, call and response, musical questions and answers, and improvisation. I could also see that they became better listeners as well. The listening aspect of the World Music Drumming Curriculum greatly helps to develop a student's ear. My students learned to listen to one another so that they could fully understand how their part fit with others. As a result, their sense of comradery and respect for one another was greatly enhanced.

I am so grateful for receiving this grant and for having the opportunity to attend World Music Drumming. I am anxious to share this new knowledge with my students throughout the year and would highly encourage other music teachers to receive their certification in World Music Drumming.

Chelsea Given, Wilson Elementary

MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT: IPOD

My first two years at Nelson were fantastic, except for our ancient 200 disc CD player. Upon meeting me, it decided that it no longer cared what CD it was playing; as long as it played we should be happy. The students found it amusing when my coworker or I would say, "Get up it's time to move to some jazz" and the CD player decided that *The Nutcracker* was a far better choice. We were getting worried that eventually the CD monster would decide that the CDs would make a good dinner.

Grant writing was the only thing that would save our curriculum CDs, so I decided to give it a go. This past school year I filed for a PTA grant for a portable sound system to lessen the amount of supplies that we needed to carry outside with iPod/mp3 capability; thinking that we could use the sound system in the music room and for other school functions. PTA graciously funded the sound system but could not afford the iPod and said that it would be a few years from now before they could purchase it for us. On a whim I quickly put in the application to the Music Council begging for the iPod to complete our sound system woes. When my school was announced I was so excited that I called my coworker on the way home and had the iPod purchased the next day.

Our mammoth CD player is still in the same spot but is only turned on long enough for me to grab CDs out to import on the 160 GB iPod. All 200 of our CDs are now digitally stored on the iPod with more room to spare for any extra songs we might want to import. It has saved us a ton of instructional time and I have categorized the songs into folders for the big concepts to take less time scrolling through the playlists of CD names. We cannot thank the Music Council enough, it really did make a huge difference in our classroom!

Courtney Driggers, Nelson Elementary

BRAVO!

Congratulations to the following teachers on having students selected for the 2015 Elementary All-State Chorus!

Jodie Donahoo, Bryant Elementary
Courtney Driggers, Nelson Elementary
Eleana Moffre, Lake Magdalene Elementary
Lorri Naylor, Lowry Elementary
Becky Traenkner, Bartels-Turner K-8
Betty Trascritti, Bryant Elementary
Tori Walsh, Tampa Palms Elementary

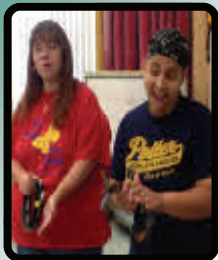
Congratulations to Melanie Faulkner for being named the
Florida Music Educators' Association
Leadership Award Recipient!

Congratulations to the following teachers who have been recognized by their colleagues and selected as Teacher of the Year and Ida S. Baker award nominees. We are proud of you!

Steven Florio, Grady Elementary, Teacher of the Year
Cliff Fouts, Deer Park Elementary, Ida S. Baker Award

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the many benefits of membership!



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Send HCEMEC dues to
Jennifer Leblanc at
Chiles Elementary!

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