

Volume 7, Number 4


# ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council

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

## HCEMEC Executive Board

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Good News  
from the HCEMEC

Hillsborough County Public Schools

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



The Fine Arts Festival was an amazing experience. It allows you to meet lots of new people. It was so amazing because the Fine Arts Festival synchronized so many skilled musicians. Just over 700 musi-

# Fine

cians performed. Handbells is quite the unique group. Everyone in that ensemble is amazing.

Finding out that we were in an the All-County Ensemble was exciting. We had 6 practices, 5 of which were at Chiles Elementary, and the final was at King High School.

# Arts

The first practice was an awesome experience to

meet new people who had the same things in common with us. They were really sweet and shy in the beginning but throughout the practices they grew out of their shells. So did we. In every practice we kept working hard. At the very last practice we ran through the show twice.

# Festival

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# Fine Arts Festival 2016



The combined East, Central, and West Choruses are joined onstage by the Orff Ensemble and Orchestra, along with the World Drumming and Handbell Ensembles in the balconies, to perform the Finale piece, *Amovolo*.

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We perfected any mistakes we made that day. There was a lot of repeated measures. A lot of them were air ringing (ringing without bells). We eventually nailed it. When the show came around everyone was nervous!

The Straz Center was packed with people. It was enormous and stunning. We had a dressing room reserved for Handbells. We felt like professionals. When we walked on stage the audience made us feel good. Our self-esteem sky rocketed. Then we performed and we sounded amazing. It was a marvelous experience all around. You had to be there to understand the magnitude of it. It was the biggest performance of our lives!

♪ Ethan Madramootoo & Genneys Reyes, FAF Honors Handbells Students, Seffner Elementary School



The student authors backstage with their teacher, Kim Oppermann, Seffner Elementary, and FAF Handbells Conductor Jennifer LeBlanc.



Conductors Jen Edelblute, Roland Park K8, and Jodie Donahoo, Bryant, spend some time bonding backstage with the FAF Orff students before the concert.



World Drumming Conductor Juan Rios, Cannella, prepares the students backstage for their performance.





Central Chorus



West Chorus



Honors Orff



Honors Orchestra



East Chorus



World Drumming



Deah McReynolds



Honors Handbells

Fine Arts Festival 2016

# Music Education Spirit Week

To Benefit Hillsborough Little Kids Rock Programs

## Hey, Little Kids who Rock; why *did* you play for the “Music Education Spirit Week to Benefit Little Kids Rock in Tampa?”

“Well, it was awesome!” “They only let real bands play at Beef ‘O’ Brady’s. We must be a real band!” “Did you hear all of those people clapping for us?” “ I live for the drums.” The parents say, “My daughter is like a different person. Thank you.” “Can he come back and play after he graduates?”

That’s what Little Kids Rock teachers hear, especially after yet another hugely successful week of playing at local Beef ‘O’ Brady’s Restaurants during our Music Education Spirit Week to Benefit Little Kids Rock in Tampa. You’ll learn more about that, but if you don’t know about LKR, take a look at what they share about their organization.

*‘The Little Kids Rock organization (and the LKR teachers) are dedicated to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to unlock their inner music-maker. That is Little Kids Rock’s mission, and since 2002, we have given more than 400,000- schoolchildren across the U.S. access to fun, engaging, Modern Band music classes and brand new instruments at no cost to the students, teachers, or school districts.*

*Little Kids Rock trains public school teachers (tons in Tampa) and donates all of the instruments, curricular resources and support they need to ensure that their kids receive the right to rock! What makes Little Kids Rock different is that they do more than just donate instruments like guitars, drums and keyboards; they build lasting music programs that focus on teaching kids to perform, improvise and compose the popular music genres that they already know and love, like rock, pop, blues, hip-hop, country, reggae and R&B.’*

So, why did nearly a dozen LKR bands perform at Beef ‘Brady’s Restaurants across Hillsborough County March 27 – 29, 2016? Well in addition to having fun, to help with upkeep and repair of the instruments that give about 40,000 of our HCPS students the “right to rock!” The money donated by Beef ‘O’ Brady’s from sales during “Spirit Week” is a big help in keeping the instruments in great playing condition so that this great program lives on.

This year, bands from Roosevelt, Tampa Bay Blvd, Ruskin, Shore, Lowry, Lowry HOST, Lewis, Cannella, Kingswood, Riverview and Turner-Bartels jammed the week away to packed houses. Spread the word and rock with us in 2017!

(Information, Little Kids Rock.org)

### Participating LKR Bands

Roosevelt Elementary

Tampa Bay Blvd. Elementary

Ruskin Elementary

Philip Shore Elementary

Lowry Elementary

Lowry HOST

Lewis Elementary

Cannella Elementary

Kingswood Elementary

Riverview Elementary

Turner-Bartels K8

♪ Lorri Naylor, Advocacy Co-Chair, Lowry Elementary School





# Crestwood Elementary School

## Live, On The Air!

On April 22, 2016 Robert Constable and the Crestwood Elementary School Recorder and Guitar Ensembles performed live on WMNF 88.5 FM Community Radio!



Schwarzkopf Freedom Singers perform at MacDill Park for the Tampa RiverFest.



MacFarland Park Strings perform at the Tampa RiverFest.

# Tampa RiverFest



Chiles' Rock Band rockin' the Curtis Hixon Stage at Tampa RiverFest.



The Kingswood Elementary Rock Band performing at Tampa RiverFest.



Lowry students participate in the Music Education Spirit Week at Beef 'O' Brady's for Little Kids Rock.





# Elementary Music Banquet

## *Bourbon Street Stroll*

You know when musicians get together it's going to be a party! April 15, 2016 was no exception as Elementary Music Specialists were joined by administrators, friends, and family to celebrate another phenomenal year of music education in Hillsborough County. The sounds of New Orleans reverberated through Maestro's Restaurant at the David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts for the Elementary Music Banquet *Bourbon Street Stroll*. In addition to ambrosial food, awesome fellowship with colleagues, and amazing music, we paused to recognize the achievements of our own, and our unfailing supporters and administrators, who have helped to continue Hillsborough Counties reputation as one of the BEST communities for music education in the nation.

## Music Educator of the Year, Jennifer LeBlanc



Jennifer LeBlanc from Chiles Elementary School was nominated by her administrator, Theresa Evans, who said of her: Jennifer's passion for her students and music education combine to make her the perfect choice for this award. In addition to teaching a full schedule of classes, she arrives early every morning to direct and teach two handbell groups that have developed into amazing performance groups. She also conducts and leads the school chorus through multiple performances throughout the year. Furthermore, Jennifer is a mentor for new teachers, conducting Content Area Training, as well as hosting interns, and serving as a model classroom for music education students from USF and Florida College. She teaches, encourages, and exemplifies the very best of Hillsborough County teachers and music educators.

## Music Rising Star of the Year, Christine Sabio

Nominated by Principal Sarah Jacobsen, Christine Sabio of Dunbar Magnet Elementary School was recognized as the Music Rising Star of the Year.

In her nomination letter, Mrs. Jacobsen wrote: Looking first at her skills as a classroom teacher, she works to improve her teaching to benefit her students EVERY DAY. Christine studies best practice, regularly asks for feedback, collaborates with peer Music Specialists and asks her students directly how she can help them. She incorporates their interests to engage them, while developing an appreciation for a range of genre. It is not unusual to see students leading the lesson, helping to create rubrics, working together to check their learning and applying Music standards previously learned to the current lesson.

On top of the already extremely busy job of teaching the music curriculum each day, our music teacher has grown our small chorus into the following in less than 3 years: A Show Chorus, an Orff Ensemble and a World Drumming ensemble (led by student conductors, including a student that has composed his own song that will be performed in our spring concert).





## Music Principal of the Year, Rosalind Daigneault

Rosalind Daigneault, Crestwood Elementary School, was nominated by her Music Specialists Nate Strawbridge and Robert Constable. Speaking of her support for music they said: Our principal understands that our department is performance based and the product of our students' learning is displayed through their performance - not only in the ensemble setting, but also in the music classes of every grade level. In terms of our ensembles, Mrs. Daigneault understands the pressing need for our ensembles to have the time to rehearse. Additionally, she has supported the music program in many ways, and financially she has gone above and beyond to meet the needs of our growing program.



Our principal stresses to the school the importance of music in the lives of the students. She expresses her belief that music students come to school to participate in music and the arts. She understands that our music program is a big reason that the students come to school and uses this fact wisely to encourage good academics and behavior.

At the end of the year last year, we asked our principal what she wanted to see from our music department this year. Strongly encouraging us to perform as much as possible, she said, *"All I want is to see our babies shine!"*

## Music Encore Award, Don Banks Music

Don Banks passed away on October 13th of last year. While he will be missed each and every day by so many people, the legacy he left behind will remain timeless, as his impact on school music programs and students is unmatched by any other local company. Don always held the belief that every child deserves a chance to play music, and that philosophy is evident every day in the way his store continues to help students of all ages succeed in their musical lives. Over the many years, the company has provided countless numbers of instruments through their instrument rental programs to students who otherwise would not have been in a strings or band program without the store's services or help. Even though Don owned a music store, he always had the heart of a music educator since he himself was once a band director.



It is seldom that you can say that a company has devoted its entire business and mission to a single community like Don Banks music has. In the age of corporate conglomerates, megastore outlets, and impersonal online purchasing options, Don Banks Music could have done what many companies have done - expand and grow bigger, and in the process lose its core mission. However, the company has kept its personal touch and its focus on a singular goal, which is the success of the individual student and the music programs that each school has in place to serve those students.

When considering the length of service the store has provided, and continues to provide every day for our schools, it is very clear to our Council that Don Banks Music is deserving of this award.

So it is with great appreciation and honor that the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Council present this Encore Award posthumously to Don Banks and to his son Mitchell Banks of Don Banks Music for their unending support of the public school music programs in Hillsborough County.

# President's Message

As I write this article, our district's elementary music teachers are in the midst of preparing for the biggest elementary music event of the year: Fine Arts Festival! Countless hours have been invested in preparing, planning and conducting rehearsals, all to ensure a stellar performance and an unforgettable experience for our students.

As large-scale as Fine Arts Festival is, it represents the same kind of intensity present at every school as music teachers prepare for their own individual programs and concerts. Like myself, most music teachers' programs occur during the weeks (even days) leading up to Fine Arts Festival, which means we are planning our students' involvement in multiple events. There are so many details, and the to-do lists are quite long. All of this is in addition to the daily planning of making great things happen in our classrooms. Thinking about it (even writing about it!) makes one's head spin in circles.

Why do we do it? Because, as musicians ourselves who have had many defining moments throughout our musical lives, we know how powerful those experiences can be and we want the same for our students. We are not doing it simply for the for the 'aha' moment, but for the game-changing kind of experience that is transformative. We work long hours, lose lots of sleep, plan every detail, and send more emails than we ever thought we needed to send to ensure that experience will happen. In the end, we are exhausted, but rewarded, and we'd do it all over again.

So, as the school year winds down, know that what you have done is nothing short of magical for your students! The new school year will be here before we know it and a new adventure too, so take time to reflect, recharge, and most importantly, RELAX! You've earned it! Have a fabulous summer!

♪ Jeff Henson, HCEMEC President, Hammond Elementary School

## HCEMEC Grant Recipients

### Professional Development

Leticia Pons Riveron, Just Elementary  
Justin Daniels, Riverhills Elementary  
Samantha Driscoll,  
Reddick Elementary  
Joey Willoughby, Riverview Elementary

### Musical Equipment and Materials

Ben Vyborny & Andrew Young,  
Doby Elementary  
Sara Auger, Tinker K8  
Samantha Snow, Burney Elementary  
Sarah Alsafer, Oak Park Elementary

## Supervisor's Sound-Off

Another June is here and the end of another busy and exciting school year is here! It seems we say that every year and in a way it is the same, but different. 2015-2016 has been a full year (pun intended) in the world of Elementary Music! From Professional Study Day and steel drums to the spectacular Fine Arts Festival and everything in between: Young Songwriters Symposium, Joy on the Riverwalk, BellFest, Elementary All-State Chorus, the MultiCultural Festival, Little Kids Rock Spirit Week, Tampa's RiverFest. There was great professional development with Tim Wiegand, Lillie Feierabend and our own teachers along with over 50% of our teachers participating in PLC's! We are proud to have once again been designated as one of the Best Communities for Music Education 2016!

Congratulations to our music teachers who are retiring this year! Mary Baldwin (FishHawk Creek), Michele de Lucca-Lowrey (Lockhart), Orelia Joiner (Bevis), Bruno Kazenas (Brooker), Ed Kennedy (Caminiti), Carolyn Olivero (Symmes), Suzanne Payne (Mango), Kim Roberts (Mitchell), Carol Shaw (Alafia), Tony Valdez (Clark) and Gary Ward (Thonotosassa).

Our summer is shortened so recharge fast (and check out the professional development)! Have a wonderful summer!

♪ Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Music



**Hillsborough County**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Excellence in Education*

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###### Convention

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Kyla Bailey, Justin Daniels,

And Jennifer Moats