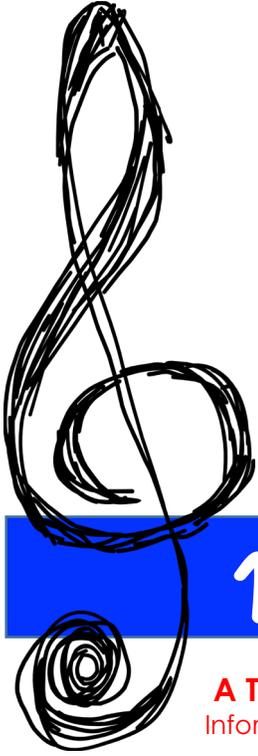


Notes from Ms. Skogley



1st Trimester 2019-2020 Broadwater Elementary Music

Hello from the music room! My name is Jennifer Skogley and I am so glad to be back at Broadwater again this year. I've been teaching in Helena for 11 years and this is my 11th year at Broadwater. It's a really amazing thing for me to see how these students grow over six years and we've been able to work on some incredibly challenging repertoire this fall.

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What Did We Learn?

A Technicolor Holiday: Friday, December 13th, 1:00 at **HMS Auditorium**
Informational letters have gone out via email with concert details and concert attire.
Reminders will continue to appear as the date gets closer.

Kindergarten

We've been working the foundational skills all musicians need to be successful in music. These skills include: keeping a steady beat, matching pitch, voice choice (singing or speaking) and differentiating between high and low sounds.

We work on these skills through a wide range of songs and rhymes. Some of these include: No More Pie; Five Little Ladies; Johnny On the Woodpile; Two Little Blackbirds; My Aunt Came Back; Eensy Weensy Spider; Frog in the Meadow; Listen, Listen; Pitter Patter; Engine, Engine; Chop, Chop, Chippity Chop; Aiken Drum.

Students also move to various classical music selections each class. Some selections that you could listen to and ask your student to move with at home could include: Symphony #1 Gavotte (by Prokofiev); Waltz in A Flat (by Johannes Brahms); Trois Gymnopedie #1 (by Eric Satie); Ghost Train (by Eric Whitacre).

1st Grade

1st graders continue to work on the same foundational skills as in kindergarten, but with more challenging songs and more opportunities to do things independently.

Some of the songs and rhymes we tackled this trimester include: Hill and Gully Rider; I Met a Bear; Peep Squirrel; Star Light, Star Bright; There Was a Little Turtle; A Pumpkin for the Pie; A-Tisket A-Tasket; William He Had Seven Sons; Johnny Works with One Hammer; Old Dan Tucker.

1st graders also continue their journey in creative movement, both independently and following a leader. Sometimes we listen to stories and we move to illustrate the events (ask them about the Firefighters!). Other times, we listen to classical music and follow the leader.

Notes from Ms. Skogley

What Did We Learn?

2nd Grade

By 2nd grade, students have made huge strides in becoming tuneful, beatful and artful. They are nearing the end of the 1st Steps in Music program and it's so fun to hear how they've progressed over the past two years. Some songs we've learned this fall include: Purple Light, Did You Feed My Cow?; Riding in a Buggy; Pickin' a Spot; A Sailor Went To Sea; Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush and Turn, Cinnamon, Turn.

We also started working on a little bit of folk dancing. We danced our way through *Valerie*, which is a silly, fun copy-cat dance.

3rd Grade

Third grade spent some time reviewing and then diving into some new repertoire. We've been working on a little bit of Conversational Solfege (echoing and a little decoding), as well as some new songs (John Kanaka; Step Back, Baby; Bye, Baby Bunting; Black Snake; Minka; Pop Goes the Weasel).

We've also danced a few new folk dances this fall! (*Valerie*; Bo Diddley; Shoo Fly).

What Did We Learn?

Fourth Grade

By fourth grade, students have finished with 1st Steps in music and are now on to music literacy with Conversational Solfege. 4th graders are working on learning to echo, decode and read musical notation. They've also been working on learning to sing in rounds/canons, and how to compose their own rhythm using rhythm syllables.

Some songs we've worked on this fall include: White Sand and Gray Sand; Soldier, Soldier, Lady Liberty; Grasshoppers Three; Montana; How Do You Talk Like a Pirate and Autumnal Equinox. We've also been trying our feet at some new folk dances, including the Virginia Reel (ask them about learning to strip the willow!).

5th Grade

I love starting out 5th graders in the fall! We start with Mallet Madness, a specialized program that gets all the kids playing a wide variety of instruments. They learn how to play complementary rhythms, the difference between rhythm and beat and so many other skills! We've also been working on a piece written by one of my colleagues called the *Triwizard Waltz*. It's challenging and these kids really stepped up to the plate!

We've also done lots of dancing and singing: Chimes of Dunkirk and Rural Felicity (folk dances); The Star Spangled Banner; Montana Melody; Ah, Poor Bird and Pass the Pumpkin.