

Notes from the Music Room

Everyone in the music room has been very busy learning about music. In the fifth grade, we are finishing up our "Create a Joyful Sound" unit. In this unit, each student had to create an instrument at home, using materials that are found around the house. The created instrument must be put into a classification like an aerophone – wind sounder; idiophone – self sounder; chordophone – string sounder or membranophone – skin sounder, as well as, produce a sound when played. Each student presents an oral report and a written report. Both reports need to include the following guidelines: telling the class how their instrument was made; what materials were used; how much time it took to make the instrument; any problems that may have been encountered; any changes in design or materials if they had to make the instrument again; and end the written report with their personal reflection on this unit. There were several AWESOME created instruments.

The third and fourth grade classes are creating a rhythm band. Each class breaks into 4 groups. Each group is assigned a specific 16 measure rhythm pattern that includes quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes, and a whole rest. All the groups practice their assigned rhythm on the assigned instruments. Group 1 plays the triangle; group 2 plays the tambourines; group 3 plays the rhythm sticks, wood blocks, claves and tone blocks and group 4 plays the drums and cymbals. Then all the groups perform together with the piano music "Minuet" by J. S. Bach. Everyone will get to play on all of the instruments and the assigned rhythm pattern.

Kindergarten, First and Second grade classes are exploring the music stations. The music room has 10 music stations. The stations are as follows:

1. – **Music reading** – we read books about music, using read-along cassettes.
2. – **Mozart's "Magic Flute" quest.** This music computer game helps the student Improve their audio and visual memory; critical thinking skills; problem solving skills; pattern recognition and listening skills.
3. – **Listening station** – the students listen to classical music while coloring.
4. – **"Super Duper Music Looper"** – students create their own musical piece on the computer.
5. – **Music writing** – students practice writing music symbols on the marker boards.
6. – **Instruments** – students get to explore and play on all the different instruments.
7. – **"Jump Start Music"** – is a computer game where students learn melodies, rhythms and more while on an enchanting adventure through a musical world.
8. – **"Adventure in Musicland"** – is a computer game where students play musical games like music match; melody mix-up; picture perfect and sound concentration.
9. – **Creative Movement** – students move and dance creatively to prerecorded music.
10. – **Piano** – student explore on the piano. Right now, we are playing groups of 2s and 3s on the black keys.

Grand Friend Singers will visit Huguley's Retirement Center on February 6th from 3:30 – 4:30 pm.