

Music Room Notes

Spring, 2019

Mrs. Bretthauer

*Dear Family & Friends of Colchester Elementary School,
So much has been happening in preschool through second grade music classes.*



Our new classroom instrument:

A Bass Metallophone

Donors Choose Fundraiser

Through the program Donors Choose, funds were raised to purchase this instrument for the CES music classroom. Students have had the opportunity to play and experience music on this new instrument. It is called a metallophone instead of a xylophone because the bars are made out of metal.

Preschool

Preschool students have learned finger play games such as “Five Little Mice,” “One Little Owl,” and “Five Brown Buns”. The children particularly enjoy the name chant “2, 4, 6, 8, Who Do We Appreciate” and using locomotor movements to practice steady beat and rhythm while moving to a jazz song called “Goin’ For Coffee”. It is a joy to watch their faces light up as they march into the room singing “Follow Me Down To Colchester” then choose places they love to go in town!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have learned about their musical voices such as singing, chanting, cheering, whispering, high hooty owl, and low cow. Ask them to say “hello” in an owl voice! Through these musical experiences children are developing their intune singing voices and internal sense of steady beat and rhythm. They adore singing and dancing to “Jumpin’ Josie” and “Can’t Stop The Feeling” and enjoy hearing their names chanted during “I Have Feet That Tap, Tap, Tap”!

First Grade

First grade students have focused on the development of their singing voices, identifying high and low tones and the difference between chanting and singing voices. First graders recently learned a new game called “Closet Key” where one student hides a key and another student seeks out the key. The class sings the song louder if the seeker is close to the key and softer if the seeker is far away. It has become a fan favorite!



Movement to Develop Musical Understanding & Performance.

The students also pretend to move as if they are jello or syrup as they respond to the tempo & timbre of Flamenco Sketches by Miles Davis.

Second Grade

Second graders have been learning songs and dances from other countries. Through this process, students have the opportunity to compare and contrast their own personal experiences to those of children all over the world. We’ve found many similarities. Did you know that many countries have their own version of “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”? The children can sing and dance versions from Mexico (Juanito Cuando Baila) & Ghana (Khe Khe Cooleh). There are also multiple versions “Rock, Paper, Scissors”. We have learned versions from China (rock, cloth, scissors) & Indonesia/Bali (called *Tultaltit* - rock, thorn, leaf - sung in Sawhili). Children around the world are more similar than different from us!

Second grade is also decoding the differences between rhythm and steady beat. Some classes have taken up the challenge of singing a song, clapping the rhythm, and stepping a steady beat all at the same time. Their singing voices are beautiful.

So Much More Music Making To Come!

All in all, there is so much music and joy happening in the classroom this year. As we say in music class, “Musicians start together, stay together, and end together.” We have enjoyed the start, the middle and cannot wait to spend the rest of the school year together!

Sincerely,

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Music Teacher

Colchester Elementary School

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