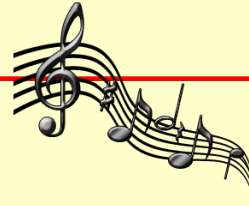


MUSIC NEWS!



Saddle Peak
Elementary
Belgrade, MT

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Notes from First Grade Music

What We're Learning

This month we are finishing our study of quarter notes and eighth notes. We know how to speak and write these notes, and we will finish up our unit with a quarter note/eighth note pair composition project.

About halfway through January we will begin our second major unit in our music learning curriculum. This unit will consist of learning about dotted quarter notes and eighth note trios in 6/8 time. Of course, that's a very complicated explanation for how we will begin! First, we learn what these two patterns sound like, and learn to call them by their nicknames: step and triole (pronounced tree-oh-lay). By the beginning of February we will be learning to identify these sounds in a variety of songs and rhymes.

Songs and Rhymes in Unit Two:

Oh Dear, What Can the Matter Be?
Old Raggy
Sing We Another Before We Depart
See Saw, Marjorie Daw
Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat
Oh My! Fish in the Sky!
The "Kaiser Waltz" by Johann Strauss

In addition to learning about these new rhythms, we will be continuing to develop our singing voices and will be exploring playing a variety of percussion instruments.

Coming Up!

February is national "I Love to Read" Month. Why is this important in music? First, there are many great children's books available about music and musicians in our library and in area bookstores. Some of Mrs. Herdina's favorites include: "Abiyoyo," "The Jazz Fly," and "Ah, Music!"

Second, music education helps in the process of learning to read. *Fluency*, or the ability to read aloud in a fluid cadence, is something we focus on in learning to read songs and rhythms. Recent studies have shown that students who read to a steady beat can improve fluency. For further information about how music and reading are linked, please visit the following website:

http://www.abcmusicandme.com/documents/impact_of_music_on_literacy.pdf

What We Can Do at Home

- Ask your child to perform their composition from music for you, or, if they prefer, have them write a new rhythm at home!
- Identify instruments on the radio and at sporting events. What is your favorite instrument and why?