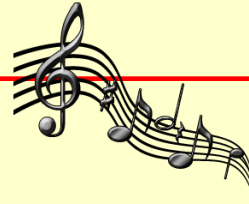


MUSIC NEWS!



Saddle Peak
Elementary
Belgrade, MT

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Notes from Fourth Grade Music

What We're Learning

We are mid-way through our first unit on quarter notes, eighth note pairs, quarter rests, and half notes. We are becoming experts at "decoding" these rhythms – Mrs. Herdina can play a four beat rhythm and we tell her what she played using words that match the rhythms ("tip-toe" "step" "glide" and we indicate rests with silent movements). In October, we will begin reading these rhythms, writing these rhythms, and finally composing songs using these rhythms.

We have been working on our singing skills by learning the French folk song, "Frere Jacques". Why do we learn to sing in foreign languages? Singing together involves listening carefully to the sounds others make. It is easy when singing in our native language to ignore the sounds of others, it is nearly impossible to ignore someone singing a different language next to you! By studying foreign language songs, we learn to sing better in tune together. We learned to sing "Frere Jacques" in a four-part round, as well as singing with the partner songs "Row Row Row Your Boat" and "Three Blind Mice."

New songs we are learning include: "Ah Poor Bird" (a round), "Have You Seen the Ghost of John" (a round), and "Button You Must Wander" (a traditional game-song).

In November, we will begin rehearsing the music for our Winter Musical: "Broadway Santa" It should be very fun to put together!

Each month we will focus on a different rhythm pattern in order to master rhythmic counting (a skill needed for fifth grade music). September's topics were time signatures, bar lines, measures, quarter notes, and quarter rests. October's topics are quarter notes, quarter rests, and eighth note pairs, repeat signs and first or second endings.

Concert Times!

The Fourth Grade Winter Concert will be a musical called, "Snow Time!" Speaking parts will be available to as many students as we can fit into the script. We will begin rehearsing in November. All concerts will take place in the Saddle Peak Gym.

Monday, December 12th:

6:00 PM: All Third Grade Classes

7:15 PM: All Fourth Grade Classes

What We Can Do at Home

- Ask your child to teach you a song or rhyme from music class. See if they can "decode" it!
- Ask your child about partner songs and rounds. Partner songs involve groups of people singing two or more songs at once that end up fitting together nicely. Rounds are songs that begin at different times throughout a group.

