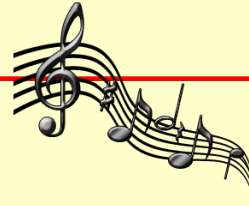


MUSIC NEWS!



Saddle Peak
Elementary
Belgrade, MT

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Notes from Kindergarten Music

What We Do!

Thank you so much for coming to our winter concert! We were very excited to share with you what we do in our class. In December, I shared with you information about "Simple Songs." After we sing simple songs in music, we move to a small corner of the room that we call **Arioso Land**. Arioso Land is a place where all we can do is use our singing voices. The students sing back and forth to a puppet, Melody. Singing conversationally encourages students to explore different parts of their voices. It also encourages students to feel comfortable creating and improvising in the music class. Older students will improvise and compose songs and rhythms in music class. This is a comfortable, fun way to begin that process. When Mrs. Herdina assesses students in Arioso Land, she is listening for students who use their singing voices with a variety of pitches (3 or more). Students who sing using only one or two different notes are progressing to that point. Students who are not using their singing voices at all are considered "novices" and Mrs. Herdina will continue to focus on helping those students find their singing voices.

Simple Songs We Know

We know: **Frog in the Meadow, Pitter Patter, Johnny Had One Friend, Fais Dodo, and Frosty Weather.**

In January we will focus on: **Peep Squirrel**
Peep Squirrel, Peep Squirrel. Doh doh diddle-um, Doh doh diddle-um. Peep squirrel, peep squirrel, doh doh diddle-um dee.

Ask your child to sing for you! ☺

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

- Sing back and forth to each other in the car or at the dinner table.
- Keep a steady beat on a drum while listening to music (or on a pot or table!)
- Talk about instruments you see and hear around your neighborhood (maybe at a sporting event or hear on the radio).