

January 2017 Music Newsletter

I hope you all had a happy holiday season and wish you a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

"You put your right mitten in, you take your right mitten out...you do the WINTER POKEY and you turn yourself about"...we're prepared for winter in Music Class, singing songs like the "Snowkey" and "Winter Pokey". We discussed different parts of our bodies and sang about what clothing you would wear to keep these body parts warm.

We discussed and sang about all the wonderful holidays and events of the month. We sang about Chanukah, the arrival of winter, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's. We spun a dreidel, talked about the seven principals of Kwanzaa, and sang about Christmas and New Year's in English and in Spanish ("Feliz Navidad").

Our K-2 kids are part of the Music and the Brain Program...you heard about it on your school tour, and you read about it on my website and in my newsletters. It would be an amazing and valuable gift if you could get your child a keyboard. They're not expensive and the benefits are huge. I sent home a copy of the book we use in class with all K and 1st grade children (in case you misplaced the book from last year or are new to PS 11). If you would need another copy of the piano book that we use in class, please email their classroom teacher or me and we can email you a scanned copy of the book.

K's played "Kuma San", "Frogs Jump Down", and "Grasshopper". We learned what a repeat sign is. We're continuing to "skip" fingers when we play. We also learned to play several music games that reinforce our music symbol and notation skills. We're taking a look at patterns and seeing that it's ok to leave finger numbers out...we can figure it out!

To celebrate Beethoven's birthday on December 17th, we read a delightful book by Jonah Winter and Barry Blitt called "The 39 Apartments of Ludwig van Beethoven. All classes skipped to page 17 in the book to play his Ode to Joy.

1st graders are working on some more difficult two-handed piano pieces in Book I. They played the longer version of Beethoven's Ode to Joy (3rd graders will shortly play the piece on recorder) and listened to several versions of the piece, from orchestral to rap. They are also beginning to study music dynamics such as forte, piano, and mezzo forte.

2nd graders learned the skills required to conduct in different time signatures. They have also begun work on their Spring Performance, "Mighty Minds". Please help them memorize their lyrics. If your child has lost his/her lyrics, they can be found on the PS 11 website. The music, both with lyrics and without are also on the website. <http://ps11chelsea.org/music/> and on my website <http://ps11music.com/noteshome.html>.

3rd graders all received recorders as a gift, along with music and a recorder practice log. They learned the notes BAG and in addition to the photocopied music from our book, are playing some rock and blues tunes such as "It's All About B" and "BA BA Blues". Please help them by reminding them to practice and please **remind them to bring their instrument to school when they have music**. It is very important that they have their recorder in music class to get the benefits of our lessons. Please be patient if there's any "squeaking" around the house, they're just learning! If they have lost any of their music and/or their recorder practice log you can download it from the PS11website <http://ps11chelsea.org/music/> and on my website <http://ps11music.com/noteshome.html> You can also purchase the backing tracks for some of the recorder songs we play in class at <http://www.musick8kids.com/kidtunes/results.php>. This is a fun, motivating way for them to practice.

3rd graders are doing a wonderful job preparing for their Circle In The Square with their opening and closing numbers of "Another Openin' Another Show" and "Give My Regards to Broadway", lyrics adapted by me!

We've been discussing different genres in music, and holiday songs are great to do this with. A reggae version of "Feliz Navidad", Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby singing "I'm Dreaming of A White Christmas" in their ever famous crooning style, Justin Bieber singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" in his pop style...what a wonderful opportunity to expose our children to different styles of music.

The 5th grade performance "High School Musical Jr." is in rehearsal. We've got a wonderful cast and I'm very excited to work with these students.

If you are a musician, sound engineer or involved in the arts in any other way, contact me about doing something in class with us. We love "guest" performers and speakers.

Again, wishing you a happy, healthy New Year filled with much love and joy.

Keep a song in your heart!

Sharon Golub Room 514

sgolub@schools.nyc.gov

ps11music.com