

November 2016 Music Newsletter

"Apes...ate all eight apples"....we sang our way into this month singing about Apples because October is National Apple Month. We also sang the old time favorite, "I Like to Eat Apples and Bananas". It's also National Popcorn Month, so we sang some songs about Popcorn.

We are having a ton of fun with our vocal "warm-ups" in music class; so...if your child comes home and is making funny faces and silly sounds, ask him/her if it's a vocal exercise.

Think "Oh My Darlin' Clementine" and sing..."Oh Columbus, Oh Columbus sailed the ocean wide and blue. He landed in America in 1492". We discussed Christopher Columbus and sang about him and his explorations.

Several classes listened to John Lennon's "Imagine" to celebrate his birthday on October 9th.

"Oh, oh, oh, it's magic, you know...never believe it's not so". PS 11 musicians performed some "music magic" in class and sang several "spooky" favorites. We sang Halloween songs such as "Monster Mash", "Flying Purple People Eater" and "Ghostbusters" and read "Monster Mash" by David Catrow, "Horns Tails Spikes and Claws" by J. Elizabeth Mills and Jef Czekaj and "The ABC's of Halloween" by Patricia Reeder Eubank.

This month we talked about the word "repertoire"...the group of songs that a class or a performer knows or is prepared to sing or perform. We realized that we have a lot of songs in our repertoire!

Kindergarten kids are at the keyboards and making great progress in Piano Book I. K's have played "Swimming Down and Up", "Flying Up and Down", "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and "Halloween". Here's a suggestion for your keyboards at home. We use a color-coded system, so it's a good idea to put tape above the keys with a red line for "red right" and a yellow line for "lemon left. This will greatly help your children.

Most K's learned about Beethoven, and we read "The 39 Apartments of Ludwig van Beethoven" a wonderful book by Jonah Winter, pictures by Barry Blitt.

1st graders have started new material in Piano Book I. It's getting interesting as they are using both hands and even crossing over hands to an A. We're learning about ties and slurs and learning new notes and time signatures.

2nd graders are singing, dancing, and fine-tuning their keyboard skills. We started talking about dynamic and tempo markings and how their use brings so much to music.

3rd graders are in rehearsal for their production, "A Time to Give Thanks" which will be Wednesday, November 23rd. Hope to see you there. Check the PS 11 website for show times. I am happy to say we will be performing it not only at PS 11 but also at Hudson Guild for their seniors. It's a wonderful experience for the kids to give back to their community.

The 5th grade production, "High School Musical Jr." has started Wednesday morning rehearsals and it's going great. Please remember, if your child is out sick or at a school tour, kindly email us and let us know.

Have a great month and if you have any questions or just want to say hi, stop by room 514 or e-mail me at sgolub@schools.nyc.gov. Visit my website to see what's going on in music...ps11music.com.

Keep a song in your heart!

Sharon Golub, Room 514