

October 2016 Music Month in Review

"Ba de da, say do you remember. Ba de day, school starts in September". PS 11 musicians started the year singing "September", a song by Earth, Wind and Fire. We talked about the song and the style of music and how it is a "feel good" song that makes you want to dance, which, we did!

Some classes sang welcome to and welcome back to school songs. K's sang songs introducing themselves to learn each others names.

"The leaves on the trees turn orange and red, orange and red, orange and red. The leaves on the trees turn orange and red, all through the town". We celebrated the beginning of fall with songs and talks about things that happen in the fall. We discussed apple picking, which led to talks about Johnny Appleseed and sang some songs about apples..."Do you know the apple man, the apple man, the apple man".

Kindergartner's talked about how we sing, using our diaphragms, than our hearts (to give every song a little love and feeling) vocal boxes, vocal cords and vibration. We looked at and listened to vibration using our voice and several instruments (triangles and guitars).

Ask K children about having Ants In Their Pants!

All classes are learning interesting vocal "warm-ups" in music class. Ask your child to sing one for you. Most of them are tongue twisters and they're a lot of fun. K's sang "Apes Ate All Eight Apples"...other classes sang "Crisp Crusts Crunch Crunchily" and "Gertie's Great Grandma Grew Aghast at Gertie's Grammar"...such fun!

Kindergartners have started their Music and the Brain piano work. We talked about keyboards, headphones, and how to treat the keyboards respectfully. We discussed Red Right, Lemon Left and fingers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. We learned about quarter notes and rests and played Swimming Down and Up. We're also doing a nursery rhyme unit featuring rhymes such as Jack and Jill, Baa, Baa, Black Sheep and Hot Cross Buns (which they will soon be

playing on keyboard).

First graders are studying various note and rest values...quarter notes, half notes, whole notes, and equivalent rests. We've gone to the keyboards and have reviewed their work in Piano Book I and are getting ready to move on in the book. I've sent home a scanned copy of Piano Book I in case you have lost or misplaced it.

2nd grade classes are continuing in Piano Book I, using two hands to play, and will shortly be moving onto Book II. I've sent home Piano Book II with each child. Please keep it in a safe place.

3rd graders have begun work on their 3rd grade performance, "A Time to Give Thanks" which will be on Wednesday, November 23rd, 2016. I sent the lyrics home with each child. These lyrics can stay home so the children can practice. I have also uploaded the lyrics and the music onto my website (ps11music.com) and the school website (ps11chelsea.org). I have a set of lyrics in my classroom for our work together. Please help your child learn the words.

5th graders who have joined the production of "High School Musical Jr." have started their 8AM Wednesday morning rehearsals, and each child who came to rehearsal received a CD with guided vocals and accompaniment tracks. All the songs are on the PS 11 website. I'm excited about starting rehearsals.

A big thank you to the parents who sent in blank CDs. I can always use more, especially blank CDs.

I can use headphones for the keyboards...the kind you get in the dollar store (24th between 7th and 8th Avenues).

I have a lot of games on my website...please have your kids go to <http://ps11music.com/notereadinggames.html> and play some of them.

If you have any questions or just want to say hi, stop by room 514 or e-mail me at sgolub@schools.nyc.gov.

Keep a song in your heart!

Sharon Golub

<http://www.ps11music.com>