BA Music Newsletter from Miss Bach

Musical greetings, everyone!

We're starting off the new school year with a Boom! A Clang! A Toot! And a La-Ti-Do!

As the new music instructor, I'm presenting fun and exciting musical opportunities for all of our students, and music is best learned through singing and playing an instrument. In addition to the new skills they are acquiring, they are also learning about the composers of the quarter, which are Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven. In two weeks, we will begin learning about The Woodwind Family of musical instruments, and music from Australia, which of course includes the didgeridoo!

I'd like to begin by bragging about my awesome **Show Chorus**. Everyone came to this elective with varying levels of experience, but we are all starting from the same point of view, with a passion for performing and connecting with each other and the community through music and singing. We've been diligently working on our sight-reading skills while discovering the basics of vocal technique as soloists and as ensemble singers. Additionally, the repertoire that we've been practicing up until now are "Jump, Jive, and Wail" from the era of Swing, and "Blackbird" by the Beatles. We are looking forward to memorizing these songs and choreographing them in the next few weeks, at which point we will begin learning two new songs. Side Note: we are discussing a new name for our Show Chorus. I've come up with an idea, and I'm also looking forward to hearing the options they present to me as well! Stay "tuned" as we progress through this new era for the BA Show Chorus.

Additionally, our Show Chorus singers are invited to hear The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and the Florida Orchestra rehearse at the Straz FOR FREE! Keep posted for more information as it will be coming up in a few weeks; look for more in your communications.

**Junior Show Chorus** had their first class with me and are excited to learn the repertoire, as well as how to breathe and have correct singer's posture. We will be learning all about melody and harmony next week!

**Club Day**: My first group of Little Composers have already decided on the theme for their song: telling the story of a group of friends who are trick or treating, and they realize they have to protect a little old lady who lives in the scary house on the hill from zombies and a poltergeist (can you sense they're excited for Halloween?!). We will be breaking down the story into song in the coming months, then we will be making a music video at the end of the year!

**5th grade** is learning how to play the recorder, and both classes have far surpassed my goals for them up to this point. They are learning to play A, B, and C on the staff, and have a clear understanding of what it means to play music simultaneously, in rhythm and on the right pitches.

**3rd grade** is learning how to play Boomwhackers, and are seeing the connection between colors, pitches, and *solfeggi* on the major scale through the use of hand motions called Kodaly Hand Signs. They're learning to play songs and will actually be performing on these silly and fun instruments!

**1st grade** is also learning how to recognize pitches through Kodaly Hand Signs, and are playing on the Boomwhackers as well. Additionally, they are learning to sing together and will be learning their first song with choreography, "The Bare Necessities", from *The Jungle Book*.

**PreK**, **JK**, and **K** are learning rhythm and movement through the use of colorful scarves and beanbags. These tools, while played with to the tunes of Beethoven, Bach, and other fun songs that are part of the primary curriculum for music ("Let's Go Fly a Kite" and others), along with imagery and storytelling, are exceptional for understanding soft-loud, high-low, and fast-slow. They pass the beanbags to each other slowly or quickly depending on the tempo or they float the scarf through the air in patterns as they hear and feel the rhythm of the music.

There's so much to love about being a musician (as opposed to being just a listener of music). It deepens our understanding of mathematics, geography, and language skills. It simultaneously engages our visual, auditory, and Music students learn to work together and independently through an understanding of ensemble singing and playing.

I do believe we will have our first REAL songs memorized by the end of the quarter, and will be fully prepared to perform them for you at Grandparent's Day!