

## Quarterly Music Newsletter #2

### Seawell Elementary - Amy Evers, Music Teacher

*Quarterly Music newsletters are created in order to inform parents and guardians about the specific skills and content area objectives your children will be working on in their weekly music class.*

**Kindergarten** – Students will begin exploring melody by listening for high and low, up and down and the differences between speaking, shouting, whispering and singing voice. Students will use locomotor (marching, walking, skipping, etc.) and non-locomotor (clapping, patting, tapping, etc.) motions to demonstrate high and low sounds and up and down. We are still enjoying “I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly” and learning other songs like “The Baby Mice” and “Hush Little Baby”. We continue to move our bodies with “Animal Action” and “The Freeze”.

**First Grade**– First graders begin learning melody using hand signs and basic notation, beginning with Sol and Mi. We continue playing the Orff instruments, learning basic accompaniments to the melodies we sing. We have been performing songs like “Lucky Me” and “Teddy Bear”. Students have been learning how to respond to different sound cues while playing move and freeze and we still enjoy some “Freeze Dance” from time to time.

**Second Grade**–Second Graders will begin learning to sing and recognize the pitches Sol, Mi and La. Hand signs will continue to be used and we will continue to play the barred instruments. We have been practicing our rhythms by playing the game “Poison Rhythm” and reading rhythm cards. We will use the “Dreydl Song” to help practice the skill of internalizing music, and the “Chinese Dance” from The Nutcracker to practice “steady beat”. Second graders will be learning a rather complicated dance to accompany the song “The Noble Duke of York” along with other movement activities.

**Third Grade** – Third graders are beginning more advanced skills and concepts including recognizing, singing and notating Sol-Mi-La-Re and Do. Students continue to play the barred instruments and have been learning several different ways to accompany a melody. We have been singing songs like “So-Mi-La-So-Mi” and will add “Three Little Monkeys”; and learning how to perform Rounds and Canons by continuing “Four Beats After” and adding a “Movement Canon” as well. We will also be learning about form in music and the String family, by listening and moving to “Jazz Pizzicato” by Leroy Anderson.

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**Fourth Grade** – Students had a fantastic time at the North Carolina Symphony Concert. I think the Seahawks were the best dressed and best behaved school in the auditorium, but I am biased. Recorder and Recorder Karate begins in earnest, students will start by working on songs like “Hot Cross Buns”, “Gently Sleep”, and “Merrily We Roll Along”. Students are asked to practice ten minutes each day to build their playing skills. In class we have been working on songs like “It’s In the B-A-G” and “Fright of the Blunder B”(a parody of Rimsky-Korsokov’s “Flight of the Bumble Bee”), songs that help increase our note knowledge and fluency and help with our playing technique.

**Fifth Grade** – Students will be working on playing in an ensemble, using the Orff instruments, learning songs like “Bim Bam” and “A Boy Named Sean”. We will explore concepts like mixed meter and compound meters using Dave Brubeck’s “Take Five” and “Chick, Chick, Chatterman”. We continue to play the recorder together as a group in class and some students are continuing Recorder Karate. In the third quarter we will learn about the guitar and, hopefully, learn to play a few songs. We are going to resume our recorder study after our guitar unit and also begin writing our own original compositions. Please encourage students to practice their recorders, as it is a great introduction to playing any and all Woodwind instruments.