

Mr. Meyers – Music February Newsletter:

Hello Parents/Guardians of PS 182Q:

I'm so excited to share with you the news of our growth in music for 2018. February is always a special time of the year where you start to see all the things we are learning come into play when the students are making music. They are performing at a higher level, understanding more about what they are doing and asking questions about how music works. Here is a grade by grade summary of what we are currently working on.

First Grade - We are continuing with our Music and the Brain piano program and it is a great success. Students are developing the motor skills that piano players use in their first steps of playing the instrument. We've covered a wide range of songs from all parts of the world and have enjoyed performing for our classmates. In addition, students are learning how to read music at a very high level. Looking forward to a music family morning in late spring to show you how we are doing.

Second Grade – We are so excited because we have just begun to play as a full orchestra, working on the song “Three Little Birds.” The students are playing chords on the keyboards, melodies on the xylophones and rhythms on percussion instruments and putting that all together into one piece. We will be taking video of it soon, which we hope to put on our school website.

Third Grade - We have been studying the sound, emotion, feel and history of blues music this year through video, pictures, reading and of course, playing. Now we are at the point where the students have played the full song as an ensemble and we are getting ready to see how we can play the blues with different feelings and tempos.

Fourth Grade – We just concluded our studies on guitar and the students were excellent and quick learners. We performed a song with the whole class called “Best Day of My Life,” and had a great experience getting to the point of being able to play the full song. We also used the guitar to look at each other's work and offer constructive criticism in order to help each other grow. Now we are working on how to read music.

Fifth Grade – Like the fourth grade, we also just finished our second full song on the guitar called “Beat It.” The kids used what they learned in fourth grade to play something that was a bit more complicated, focusing on how to read different rhythms while strumming chords. Now we are reviewing the basics of reading music and preparing for our graduation performance!!!

School Band and Quest Guitar – Both of our extracurricular music programs are in full swing. Our school band meets three times a week and is dedicated to practicing very complicated music in school and at home. We are working on our Spring Concert, where we will be presenting selections from the movie “SING,” along with the chorus. Our guitar program has a show coming up very soon in March, where they will be presenting a music and literacy show based around the contributions of immigrants and how that influences rock and roll music. Look out for the dates for both shows very soon.

Much thanks for your support,
Mr. Meyers