



# Music Notes

Quarter 4




*It's hard to believe that we're into the fourth quarter of school already! As we begin to wrap up music instruction for the year, I realize the students have learned a great deal. See below for our final quarter plans.*

Kindergarten students are using bear songs to experience dynamics, high/low and tone color. Ask your child about the "Grizzly Bear" song or "Iroquois Lullaby". Before the school year ends, kindergarteners will practice long/short and begin singing the solfege syllables "so" and "mi". We will also label steady beat to prepare for first grade.

First graders continue to practice reading, writing, and dictating music. We'll sing such classics as "On Top of Old Smokey" and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" while studying form and performing ostinatos. We may even compose new lyrics to familiar tunes! We'll end the year with a look at Louis Armstrong and the world of jazz.

Fourth quarter begins will do-re-mi compositions for second graders. After learning about scales and how to read them on the staff, we apply our learning to keyboard instruments. Although we don't have the resources to teach each student piano, we do look at some famous composers of keyboard music. Students learn about both Bach and Mozart while listening to a variety of their pieces. We finish the year by studying Vivaldi and string instruments. Second graders have completed detailed units about percussion, keyboard, and string instruments this year - whew!

 After a successful show, third graders are ready for a unit on recorders. We will review note reading and then learn the basics of playing the recorder with good tone quality. We will end the year singing simple harmonies to prepare for fourth grade.

Fourth graders engage in a recorder unit fourth quarter. Afterwards, we study "voice classification". Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" helps us in this endeavor. Our last few days together are spent with Mozart and "The Magic Flute".

During most of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, fifth graders are immersed in their production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". All students are working hard towards a successful show on April 16<sup>th</sup>. This year's show includes actors, court jesters, recorders, a maypole dance, a sword dance, and percussion instruments. Thank you fifth grade teachers and parent partners for assisting with the show!!



Sixth graders spend the majority of fourth quarter focused on their production of "Julius Caesar". We stress beginning acting techniques useful in producing an excellent show. This year's show will be presented on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Don't miss it!

*This final quarter shall prove to be full of fun, learning and music making! As always, the music classroom is open to parents and visitors! ☺ Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at 488-7573 or [rneal@psdschools.org](mailto:rneal@psdschools.org).*

*Musically Yours,  
Robin Neal*

*April, 2009*