

November 2, 2011

Dear SPS families,

We are a few weeks into the second quarter, which means the holiday season is quickly approaching! I want to commend your children for the excellent work that they did during the first quarter. Kindergartners learned so much about Bach and Vivaldi, all while singing fun songs, moving to music, and exploring new instruments. First through third graders completed their Musical Alphabet books and have been using them to start reading music! Fourth graders have begun writing their own songs and eagerly await the composition portion of music class each week. Fifth graders have been learning about John Williams, Gustav Holst, and Hector Berlioz as well as creating Rondo Raps, playing ostinato percussion parts, and learning how to count more complicated measures of music! Sixth through eighth graders spent much of first quarter creating the Stomp videos (look for these online at: <http://sites.google.com/site/spsmusic8/home>) and learning about musical acoustics through a round of science experiments.

During second quarter, we will spend most of our class time preparing for our annual Christmas program. We have an excellent program planned, and I know you are all excited to hear your children. Look for more information about these on the music website listed above. I will also put up links to videos so that your children can practice their music at home! This was a great success last year, and I hope even more of you will help your children to visit this site for good practice.

Here is what else your child will be studying in music this quarter:

**Kindergarten** – Music of Aaron Copland and Humperdinck’s opera *Hansel and Gretel* ; more instrument play; beginning of musical counting; seasonal songs; expressive movement to a variety of musical recordings. They will be singing “Mind Your Manners” and “The Friendly Beasts.”

**First Grade** – Music of Aaron Copland and Humperdinck’s opera *Hansel and Gretel*; American folk music; review of musical counting; identifying new notes; seasonal songs; note identification using their alphabet books. They will be singing “Christmas is a Celebration” and “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.”

**Second Grade** – Music of Aaron Copland and Humperdinck’s opera *Hansel and Gretel*; American folk music; review of musical counting; identifying new notes; seasonal songs; note identification using their alphabet books. They will be singing “Come to Earth, O Tiny King” and “Mary, You’ve Been Chosen.”

**Third Grade** – Music of Antonin Dvořák and Humperdinck’s opera *Hansel and Gretel*; note identification using their alphabet books; Christmas rhythm matchups; seasonal songs. They will be singing “Once in Royal David’s City” and “Will You Be Ready?”

**Fourth Grade** – Music of Antonin Dvořák and Tchaikovsky’s ballet *The Nutcracker*; song compositions and performances; program note compositions; seasonal songs. They will be singing “Il Est Né” and “Silent Night, Silent World.”

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**Fifth Grade** – Music of Antonin Dvořák and Tchaikovsky’s ballet *The Nutcracker*; program note compositions; seasonal songs. They will be singing “Star of Bethlehem” and “Good News!”

**Sixth Grade** – Music of Aaron Copland and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra; program note compositions; augmentation, diminution, accelerando, ritardando; seasonal songs. They will be singing “What Child Shall Come?” and “Come and See.”

**Seventh Grade** – Music of Aaron Copland and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra; program note compositions; augmentation, diminution, accelerando, ritardando; seasonal songs. They will be singing “Amen! Go Tell It” and “Long Time Ago.”

**Eighth Grade** – Music of Aaron Copland and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra; program note compositions; augmentation, diminution, accelerando, ritardando; seasonal songs. They will be singing “For Unto Us” and “Angels Seven.”

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our Christmas program on December 20<sup>th</sup>!

Best,

Jessica Horner