



Sister Lakes students have been very busy in music class this quarter! Everyday the First through Fourth graders earn points for good behavior and the class with the most points before Christmas break will get a party! The third graders are diligently practicing their recorders, the Special Chorus recently did a wonderful job representing the school at the district wide concert event "Look at the World", and the second and fourth graders have begun working on their Winter Program which takes place on Thursday, December 14th! Having such talented and hardworking students sure makes my job easy!

Here's what's going on in each of the classrooms.....

Kindergarten/ Young 5's

This past quarter we have played some fun singing games! In "Charlie Over the Ocean" we got a chance to sing solos, and in "Bee, Bee Bumble Bee" we learned how to keep a steady beat. "The Number Rock" song teaches us how to count to twenty and we have been reading and spelling words with our song "See the Cat". In "Move, Freeze" we practice listening to the music and following directions.

First Grade

In first grade, we have had a chance to sing solos while playing singing games like "Who has the pencil?" and "Six Little Ducks". We've also learned how to read rhythms and play them on a drum.... Blue Jello!!! We learned about different instruments while listening to "The Carnival of the Animals" and sang some fun songs for Halloween, Thanksgiving and fall.

Second Grade

Second grade started the year by learning to read rhythms and applied to “Dem Bones” with our rhythm stick accompaniment. The students took turns singing by themselves in the song “Pizza, Pizza Daddy-O” and practiced keeping a steady beat with the song/game “Down by the Banks”. We learned the notes on the staff... (Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge and FACE) and we also learned solfege syllables and hand signs... Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, Do! We have recently begun working on the music for our Winter Program, The Big Chill, on Thursday, December 14th.

Third Grade

Third and fourth graders began the year by learning the song “Agalina Hagalina” and making up their own verses to the song. We have some very creative poets! We began learning our notes on the staff and how to read rhythms with a unit in composition. Students worked either alone or in a group of three and composed music which they later performed on glockenspiels in front of the whole class! This prepared us for recorders. When the recorders that we ordered came in we began learning to play them. The students are playing recorder karate and earning belts for playing different songs. Most students have already earned their white belts and are working on their yellow belts. Please help your child remember his or her recorder on Thursdays and Fridays. They cannot move onto the next belt without it! I hope that those of you who ordered recorders for your children have gotten a chance to hear them practice their music on these loud..., I mean... wonderful instruments!

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders, along with the third graders began the year by learning the song “Agalina Hagalina” and making up their own verses. The fourth graders are very witty! We have learned how to read rhythms with our rhythm board. Each rhythm has a motion associated with it. The students dance around in a circle and when they hear the rhythm on a drum, they respond with the associated motion. They even have taken turns playing the rhythms on a drum themselves! We learned our solfege syllables and hand signs and practiced singing them together and as a solo. We also began a composition unit in which we learned our notes on the staff. Students work either by themselves or in a group of three to compose music that they played in front of the whole class on glockenspiels! We “did the Igor” and boogied with “Scarlin’ Alive” around Halloween time. We have just started rehearsing the music for our Winter Program The Big Chill on Thursday, December 14th.

Special Chorus

Congratulations to the Sister Lakes Special Chorus for their wonderful performance singing at the district wide concert event “Look at the World”. We have begun learning more music to sing at the Winter Program on Thursday, December 14th.

*** Well that about wraps it up. Listed below are all the upcoming musical events for Sister Lakes and the rest of the district that you won’t want to miss! If you would like to contact me please feel free to email me at tfletcher@dowagiacschools.org or call me at the school. Thanks for sharing your talented children!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Fletcher

Upcoming Musical Events for Sister Lakes Students

(Please mark these in your calendar!)

1. Sister Lakes Winter Program: Thursday, December 14th, 2006 at 7pm at Dowagiac Middle School in the Performing Arts Center
2. Sister Lakes Spring Program: Thursday, April 19th, 2007 at 7pm at Dowagiac Middle School in the Performing Arts Center
3. Fine Arts Night: Thursday, May 17th, 2007

Music Events throughout the District

1. HS Jazz Band presents "A Very Jazzy Christmas": Saturday, December 2nd, 2006 at the Beckwith Theatre at 8pm.
2. Justus Gage Winter Program: Tuesday, December 5th, 2006
3. McKinley Winter Program: Wednesday, December 6th, 2006
4. Kincheloe Winter Program: Wednesday, December 13th, 2006
5. Holiday Concert featuring Patrick Hamilton's 6th grade band, the High School band and Jazz Band: Thursday, December 21st, 2006 at 7pm at Dowagiac Middle School in the Performing Arts Center.
6. Patrick Hamilton 5th & 6th Grade Program: Wednesday, February 14th, 2007.