



# GRAND LEDGE MUSIC BOOSTER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## The GLMBA is very grateful for your support.

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful tradition of music excellence here at Grand Ledge. This tradition is strongly based by the community efforts and the gracious support of our educators. We are very grateful for donations to our association. With donated money, we can

help in many ways to our music programs in all our Grand Ledge Schools. **Please consider contributing a tax deductible donation to GLMBA.** GLMBA is a 501-3C charity and you will receive a tax deductible letter. Please see our website for further information about this and where to mail your check to.

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### BEAGLE ELEMENTARY by Linda Winters

Beagle Elementary students were off to a great start this fall! September lessons included drum circle (6<sup>th</sup> grade), fight songs, musical skills and concepts, movement, singing and staff review games!

In October, we listened to Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in d minor* and Holst's *Venus* from The Planets as we moved creatively behind the shadow screen.

Beagle fifth grade students performed at the Color Cruise & Island Festival, held at Island Park, on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Our theme was "60s/70s Decades". The weather was beautiful and the fifth graders were wonderful for their first show of the year!

November music classes are filled with holiday music! Our Beagle Holiday Program took place on two evenings this year, Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. There was singing, square dancing, recorders and the Orff ensemble.



### **Neff Early Childhood & Kindergarten Center** by Josh Austin

There are many new faces here at Neff this year. To begin we spend some time singing name games in order to learn names and learn that our names can be musical, too. Children get to spend time learning to focus on themselves and then others in our singing. We start most music classes with a song that includes the children's names.

After the names, we focus on songs with movement. This movement usually involves a game. These include "The Farmer in the Dell", "Oats, Peas, Beans", and "Follow Me in a Line". Movement is centered around the beat to give children experience moving with the pulse of the music. Students also experience this movement to focus on same and different, loud and soft, high and low, and beginning, middle and end.

Near the end of each class the students will either have a song with classroom instruments, a listening selection, or a game that is focused on giving individual children turns. This is a time for the students to let me hear their singing voice up-close, or to show how they are progressing at expressing rhythms.

Each day in the Neff music room is joyful for me. The children each bring their own set of challenges and contributions and everything in-between. Many teachers in the building also reinforce some of the music learning back in the regular classroom in coordination with their own curriculum and management needs.

I would like to thank the GLMBA for their continued support of our music programs. I would also like to thank all of the rest of the Grand Ledge music teachers for their tremendous work that gives us our exceptional musical reputation.



### **Willow Ridge Elementary** by Deborah McMartin-Finkel

Our year began on a more comfortable note with the newness of last year past and a routine with first grade through sixth grade under our belts. Only two aspects of our week have changed this year. We now host sixth grade band in our music room two or three days a week and I am teaching one first grade class at Delta Center. Band is going great with Mr. Blackmer in the lead. Nearly forty of our Willow Ridge sixth graders decided to participate in band this year. It has been my pleasure to hear them grow in their instruments each week. Teaching the first grade class at Delta Center has worked out fairly well, giving me time to get back to Willow Ridge to finish our day in the way we are accustomed to with extra rehearsals at the end of the day. The first graders are a delight as well, so all is good on that front.

Our second graders performed for their families on November 21, in the early evening. Their program focused on music they have been learning in class as well as the First

Thanksgiving Story. These students dressed up in costumes made by Willow Ridge retirees and number of years back. They looked darling as they delighted their families with songs, dance and instrument playing, as well as poems, riddles and story telling. This program is a wonderful way to start off the holiday season.



**Allison Block (Native American), Ethan Torres (turkey) and Kevin Shaltry (Pilgrim) get ready to "Turkey Trot."**

We had our All School Sing on December 16. Our entire school gathered in the gym to sing music of the season. Our songs focused on the holidays of Hanukah, Los Posadas and Christmas, as well as a celebration of winter. We had students play music as the classes loaded the gym. The All School Sing is one of my most favorite events of the school year.



**Mikayla Shaltry and friends are getting ready to play "Native Spirit Dance."**

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## Delta Center ElementaryMiddle by Cathy Fox

We are having a great school year in the music room at Delta Center School. We will close 2011 with the annual Holiday Sing-Along on December 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the singing, the fifth grade recorder club will perform. Recorder club meets once a week during recess.

Our **first graders** are working on keeping the beat, singing the resting tone and recognizing instrument materials in the percussion family. They gave an informal performance for their parents on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Martin's first graders learned songs and movement activities with four music education students from MSU who worked with their class this semester.

**Second graders** also performed for parents at their "informance" on November 11<sup>th</sup>. They accompanied a song by playing the beat on barred instruments. They created



movement with partners to demonstrate the contrast between big and little beats. Second graders have focused on weight (heavy/light) and direction (direct/indirect) in their movement activities. The students are learning to discriminate between tonic and dominant tonal patterns. They are learning to recognize duple and triple meter.

The photo is of second graders in Mrs. Slear's class at their "informance" performing on the metallophones.

In **third grade**, students are reading rhythm notation. They had their first experience reading and writing triple notation this fall. They even created their own triple meter rhythms! Third graders are also recognizing major tonic patterns and creating their own to sing for each other. The students are singing in harmony by singing chord roots and chord tones. They are singing rounds. Third graders are learning and creating dances that they will perform for parents at their concert in February.

**Fourth graders** are all about the recorder. Many of them spend their lunch recess in the music room on Tuesdays for “recorder help room.” They have added “D” to the notes B, A, and G that they learned last year. They are playing many songs using those notes, and can even play in two-part harmony! Last week, they wrote their own harmony parts for the recorder and performed in small groups for the class. Fourth graders are singing, too. They can accompany a song in three-part harmony by singing chord tones. They are creating new melodies in major and minor tonality and new rhythms in duple and triple meter.

**Fifth graders** started their independent recorder project in November. Given 30 songs with a range of difficulty, they can choose the songs they want to learn. They perform for me alone when they’ve learned their song and receive a small reward. Fifth grade “recorder help room” is on Thursdays at lunch recess and the music room is filled with students who come to make music with friends, or perform their songs. In addition to recorder, fifth graders have learned several circle and line dances. They are singing three-part harmony using three major chords: I, IV, V7. Later in the year, we’ll use those chords to learn the 12-bar blues.

This year’s **sixth graders** are learning to play the ukulele, purchased with funds from the Grand Ledge Music Boosters. They learn to sing songs, both melody and harmony, then transfer the chords to the ukulele. They’ve learned three chords (C, F and G7) and are getting ready to add Am. They play alone, in small groups and as a class. They get extra practice time at “ukulele help room” on Wednesdays at lunch recess. In addition to the ukulele, the students have used conga drums and non-pitched percussion to accompany their singing. They are learning a triple-meter rhythm piece and creating their own rhythm patterns.

Thank you to the Grand Ledge Music Boosters for supporting our program and making special projects (like the ukuleles) possible!



## **Collage Concert**

If you missed this year’s Collage Concert we have a very small treat for you. A performance titled Stubernic by three of the band students was recorded and posted to “youtube”. Below is the link to their performance, (just copy and past to your web browser), and we are sure you will be amazed and will want to attend this wonderful event next year.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgHdTxsZ4yk>