

# View Ridge Elementary Music

## The Goetz Gazette

Welcome to the June issue of the Goetz Gazette! This is your one stop shop for all things MUSIC at View Ridge Elementary School.

### Spring Concert is Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 PM

Come hear the View Ridge music ensembles in their final performance of the year! Choir, Beginning and Advanced Band, Orchestra and Guitar will perform a variety of fun music specially designed to get you pumped up for summer. See you there!

### Instrumental Music Sign-ups

**Thank you 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and parents** for a wonderful Instrument Petting Zoo last week! I had so much fun giving students a chance to try out different musical instruments and every day I have been getting more enrollment forms. If you need a form you can find it on the last page of this document or outside the main office. Please turn in your form no later than Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Current 4<sup>th</sup> grade students...** did you miss the opportunity to play a musical instrument this year? If so, you can start learning next year!

If you have not yet signed up to play a music instrument next fall, the form is the final page of this document. Just print it, fill it out and put it in my box in the main office. You can also find printed forms in the flyer box just outside the main office. Forms are due on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

I will be looking at class sizes and scheduling for each instrument over the summer, and will provide students with their instrument assignments in the fall. I have been getting a nice balance of different instruments so I anticipate most if not all students will get their first choices. I will send home a letter about instrument rentals, purchase options, method books and supplies for families when we start school in September.

### **Instrumental Music Sign-ups for current 4<sup>th</sup> grade students** (Next year's 5<sup>th</sup> graders)

If your student participated in Instrumental Music this year, then parents do *not* have to duplicate the same paperwork again for next year. Students who participated this year will be guaranteed a spot in next year's Advanced Band, Orchestra or Guitar. Please let Mr. Goetz know in writing if your student *will not* be participating next year.

Please email me at [bsgoetz@seattleschools.org](mailto:bsgoetz@seattleschools.org) if you have any questions.

In case you did not see it last month, here again is a link to a short video that does a great job of explaining what kind of processing is happening inside our brains when we play a musical instrument. Check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROJKCYZ8hng>

### Why should you choose instrumental music? Playing an instrument...

- ♪ ...develops reading and math skills
- ♪ ...supports academic achievement
- ♪ ...teaches problem-solving and teamwork
- ♪ ...promotes communication across cultures
- ♪ ...adds enjoyment to learning
- ♪ ...promotes community and a sense of belonging

♪ And above all: Music improves the quality of life!

## What are we up to in General Music?

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade classes** are continuing to develop their understanding of pitch and rhythm. We have been enjoying a variety of vocal warm-ups that include student created shapes, pipe cleaners and even aerial views of bobsled tracks that we follow with our voices. This engages the head voice which we use for singing. These past weeks we have moved from echo songs to call and response songs and whole simple songs. Instead of echoing song fragments, students now learn prepared responses in songs like “John the Rabbit” and entire songs such as “Frog in the Meadow”. We have also been working on being able to accurately hear rhythms and pitches inside our heads. Students will sing one phrase of the song, sing phrase two inside their heads, and then return to singing for phrase three. We mix it up to increase the challenge, which becomes a fun game. I hope that parents have enjoyed the 1<sup>st</sup> grade homework to sing a song for two adults. Students learn best when they sing by themselves, so requesting a song from your student is a great way for them to practice!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade classes** have completed their Cornerstone Assessment! Students composed their own melody using Mi, So and La and the rhythms of a quarter note, eighth note and the quarter rest. The final piece was to perform their composition, which we completed last week. It has been amazing to see how far students have progressed with their music literacy since their Baseline in November. We been developing an appreciation for classical music through movement as we have explored heavy/light, strong/soft, graceful/detached etc... Musical improvisation has also been a focus this past month. Mr. Goetz sings the start of a phrase on a neutral syllable such as “Bum, Bum Bum Bum....” and students create an end for the phrase... “Bum, Bum Bum....” Students have enjoyed getting to hear each other’s musical creations.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes** have been learning instrument families such as the brass, woodwind, strings and percussion. Mr. Goetz played these instruments for the students and shared recordings and videos of these instruments being performed by world class musicians. This month long unit culminated in our instrument petting zoo last week. We have also been continuing our work with our recorders. Playing recorders helps students develop their music reading skills, introduces them to a more functional counting system beyond Ta and TiTi which they will use in Band, Orchestra and Guitar. Students are also developing their fine motor skills in preparation for their instruments next fall. If students would like one more taste of playing their instrument of choice, Eckstein Middle School is putting on their own Instrument Petting Zoo on June 13 at 6:00 PM.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade classes** have continued their work on recorders as they expand their range of notes and variety of rhythms in their music. We have also been working on singing in parts. Using the song "Biddy Biddy Hold On" one group of students sings the melody with the words while another group sings the bass line to outline the tonic and dominant harmonic relationship. After doing this successfully, we have included additional parts with the goal of being able to sing the song successfully in four parts! As we move into June will be learning some canons to develop our ear for singing in harmony. Being able to sing together in harmony is such a unifying and very musically satisfying experience!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade classes** are just about to finish their Cornerstone Assessment in which they compose their very own song! Students will create a title, write lyrics and put the lyrics into a melody. We have been working on what makes a catchy melody, how different melodies are structured and how to write down what is in our heads using music notation. Students have been using keyboards and recorders to help them hear, sing and write melodies using correct music notation. Like the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students we will be finishing the year with some fun canons, movement games and will maybe even start a recorder/bucket drum band!?! Just let me know if you come up with any cool recorder/bucket drum band names. The Squeaky Buckets perhaps?

## Recorders are ready for their summer vacation

Recorders belonging to students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are tired of being cooped up in the box in Mr. Goetz's room. They want to go home for summer. Please give them a nice bath of mild soap and warm water sometime this summer so they're ready for service when we start again next fall. If you are the parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and would like to donate your recorder to next year's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, please send me an email and I will set your recorder aside. I will send recorders home with students the week of June 12<sup>th</sup>.

I will have a recorder music packet available to students who would like to work on their recorder playing over the summer. This will be a great way to prepare for playing another musical instrument in the fall.

## Upcoming Music Events...

June 13: **Instrument Petting Zoo at Eckstein Middle School** 6:00 PM

June 14: **Spring Concert** 7:00 PM

4<sup>th</sup> Grade and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Orchestra, Choir and Guitar

Have a great summer vacation! See you next year!

**Mr. Goetz**

**View Ridge Elementary School**

[bsgoetz@seattleschools.org](mailto:bsgoetz@seattleschools.org)

**Scroll Down for Instrument Enrollment Form**

**Important: Please do not rent or purchase an instrument until the instrumental music teacher has contacted you regarding choice of instrument.**

# Instrumental Music Enrollment Form

The student enrolling in instrumental music is:

- ☐ a 4th or 5th grader (please circle grade level) who has never taken lessons on this instrument before
- ☐ a 5th grader who took lessons **on this instrument** last year
- ☐ a 4th or 5th grader who has taken private lessons on this instrument [please see teacher]

Please list any other instrumental music experience:

## Student and Family Information

first name	last name	male/female gender (circle)	ID number
classroom teacher		grade	room number
parent/guardian first name	parent/guardian last name	parent/guardian home phone	cell/ work phone
address		parent/guardian email	

## Instrument Choice

first choice	second choice
--------------	---------------

## Instrument Loan Information

Our family is able to provide an instrument for our child: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please note: Basic instruments are available on loan to your child for use in the instrumental music program at this school. It is the policy of the Seattle School District to lend instruments to students enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.

## Concert Date

All students are expected to participate in the EIM Spring Concert scheduled for:

**Signature**

parent/guardian signature

date