

# Noteworthy News

*A trimester newsletter of communication from the Pinnacle Music Department*

## CONGRATS!

- **Kudos to all of the students who participated in the Cultural Week Concert.**

## SAVE THE DATE!

- **Pinnacle Pride and Arts Show**
- **June 8, 2011**
- **6-8 PM**
- **We will have traveling minstrels as well as large group performances. You will NOT want to miss it!**



## Celebrating Diversity Through Music

Students from the classes of Mr. Maier, Ms. Calabrese and Mr. Pinchoff performed at an in-school assembly during Cultural Diversity week. Songs were heard from many countries - so many different languages and instruments were represented!

### Intermediate General Music

With Ms. Calabrese

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade music classes are abuzz with creative activity! After a PHE-NOMONAL performance at the PCS Winter concert, our 4<sup>th</sup> graders continue to add to their song repertoire by focusing on songs from famous musical theatre shows. In addition to their singing, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is learning to read rhythm and tradition musical notation via study of the recorder. PCS students are constantly exposed to varied genres of music from global, to blues, jazz, classical and pop. Through listening and responding to music in their "Listening Journals", our students have begun to realize the many forms that music can take!

Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade music students are becoming excellent rhythm readers! Students begin every music class by learning to master a new rhythm. The students record the rhythm in their "rhythm journals" and are proud to have such an impressive collection of



rhythmic sequences that they have mastered. In addition to building their musical literacy, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy preparing songs for the "Cultural Diversity Week" assembly. Through the songs "Siyahamba" and "La Mariposa", the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have learned to follow a conductor and sing as a cohesive ensemble.

The PCS Middle School music curriculum focuses on music history. Students have been exposed to famous Blues and Jazz musicians as well as the historical context from which these musical forms have evolved. Students have worked on several projects including "Artist Reports", jazz history

*Students who can perform complex rhythms can also make faster and more precise corrections in many academic and physical situations, according to the Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills*

timelines, and historical facts “snapshots”. During the second part of the trimester students will explore the roots of rap, write original raps and end the trimester with an independent research project. Students in the middle school music classes are encouraged to become autonomous in their research as well as work collaboratively with their peers.

**Elementary General Music**

With Mr. Maier

In *Kindergarten*, we are continuing on with our work on following steady beats and rhythms. We also are looking ahead to our end of the year Reaching Up Ceremony. We chose a few songs to perform as well as a special dance from a children’s musical. The rest of the trimester will be devoted to percussion instruments. From the first trimester, we remembered that percussion instruments are played by striking, shaking, or scraping. We now get a chance to play both the steady beat and the rhythm of songs while working toward recognizing some basic notation.

In *1<sup>st</sup> grade* we are exploring more movement to different styles of music. We are starting to recognize high and low pitches and how they move throughout a song. We are strengthening our rhythm awareness by solidifying our recognition of music notation. Above all, we are having fun singing songs from around the world.

The *2<sup>nd</sup> grade* put a great deal of time this trimester choosing and preparing songs which they performed for the school at an assembly during Cultural Diversity Week. We learned the songs

in their original languages: Hebrew for *Achshav*, Spanish for *El Coqui*, and Ewe for *Ayelivi*. We also studied the proper way to sing while reinforcing our reading rhythm notation. We are starting to learn the names of pitches by naming the music staff and singing in “Solefege” (do-re-mi).

Our *3rd grade* is using what we studied during Black History Month about the structure of African Storytelling to put together a performance for the younger grades. We will include well known children’s stories and mix them with the some of the songs we have sung over these past two years. Be on the lookout for an announcement about our performance at Pinnacle Pride Night in the third trimester.

**Instrumental Band Program**

With Mr. Pinchoff

I am super proud of my Pinnacle Charter School Band students. At the cultural celebration, they performed the hardest music they have learned, yet. Not only this, they also did it in the fewest rehearsals (10) they’ve ever had to prepare for a concert! We learned how to perform an Irish Folk Dance with melody, harmony and bass lines. We learned a German Waltz with a 3/4 Time Signature and tricky dotted rhythms. And, finally, we learned the *Eagle Summit March*, a traditional American march to celebrate the diversity that is our own country.

Stay tuned for our upcoming performances at the Pinnacle Pride and Arts Show on June 8 from 6-8 PM!