

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY MUSIC NEWSLETTER

May, 2009

Loretta Bourn, Elementary Music Coordinator

Mary Torian, Helping Teacher

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

By Loretta Bourn

A Fond Farewell

Aletha Cardin is retiring from Hancock Elementary. I had the opportunity to job-share with Aletha for three years. We thank her for her years of service. She will be missed!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Kodály Level I, Level II & Level III Teacher Training

Instructors: Janet Scarcella, Rhona Brink,
Cecile Johnson & Mary Neeley Stevens

Distinguished Hungarian Guest Pedagogue:
László Durányik

Dates: July 20-24, July 27-28, Aug. 3-7, 2009

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2009

Fee: \$350 plus materials

Tuition has been reduced from \$700 by a generous grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.

**To register, please call 713.743.3398 or visit
<http://www.pcs.uh.edu/documents/Kodaly%202009.pdf>**

Save the dates for these exciting workshops!

FALL WORKSHOP

Sept. 19, 2009

Sister Lorna Zemke

Music for the Young Child

(Pre-K through 2nd Grade)

SPRING WORKSHOP

Jan. 23, 2010

Ivy Rawlins Ward

Let Me See You Make A Motion:

African American Singing Games & Songs

HGO co-hosts Teacher Workshops at the Wortham Theatre for every mainstage production. Each workshop includes dinner, an informative presentation on the opera, and a ticket for that night's dress rehearsal performance. Teachers receive TEA Continuing Education hours for attending these workshops.

Find out more online under the HGOco tab at
<http://www.HoustonGrandOpera.org>

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Need something and short on funds? Consider writing a grant proposal to post on www.donorschoose.org. Teresa Smith received a "donorschoose" grant earlier this school year. It seems to be a simple process that is worth a try. The information at the site suggests that projects not exceeding \$400 are more likely to be funded. Be sure to get your principal's approval before submitting a grant project and follow district guidelines and policies. (Work on it this summer and have it ready for your principal to preview and approve in August!)

Please remember to return all music programs and CDs before leaving in June.

TMEA 2010

Please consider submitting a clinic proposal for TMEA 2010. Teachers might want to work as a group to create a presentation. I think it might be fun and worthwhile to present a session on “TMEA Favorites – Through the Years.” The title needs work, but the focus would be on the best activities different teachers have taken home from TMEA over the past several years. For example, my favorite lesson for “In the Hall of the Mountain King” came from a John Feirabend presentation at TMEA several years ago. Or, another route...”Favorite TMEA Purchases – Through the Years.” This idea is a minor tweak of the original plan. This presentation would focus on favorite resources purchased at TMEA over the years. These resources could be books, puppets, instruments, technology ideas (I saw my first SmartBoard at TMEA several years ago!), etc.

Clinic proposals are due June 1, 2009. To view the information and access the proposal form follow this path:

1. Go to www.tmea.org
2. Click on “Convention”



The screenshot shows the Texas Music Educators Association website. The header includes the logo and the text "Texas Music Educators Association promoting excellence in music education since 1920". Below the header is a navigation menu with dropdown arrows for "Main Menu", "Resource Center", "Divisions", "Regions", "Music Industry", "Convention", and "Students". A blue banner highlights the "2010 TMEA Clinic/Convention Clinic Proposal/Sponsorship Form" link. To the right of the banner is a sidebar menu with links for "2010 Convention Clinic Proposals", "2009 Convention Information", "2009 Personal Convention Schedule", "2008 Personal Convention Schedule", and "Convention Promotional Video". Below the banner, the text "February 10-13, 2010 San Antonio, Texas" is visible.

3. Double-click on “2010 Convention Clinic Proposals”

INVENTORY

It is the time of year when teachers are asked to complete department inventories. Forms have been emailed to teachers. Please feel free to use last year’s inventory and make revisions as appropriate. Return the forms electronically (via attachment).

TECHNOLOGY

Every music teacher should have received a new teacher computer (CTW) and four desktop units for the student computer center. Please go to the Fall Music Newsletter to view the pictures showing the exact components that each teacher should have.

Additionally, it is my understanding that music teachers have easy access to SmartBoards by now. If assistance is needed in getting access to, or connectivity for, a SmartBoard, please contact Loretta Bourn or Mary Torian.

I believe that music teachers should be using Smart Boards on a regular basis. In the elementary music folder in the Global drive, there are multiple activities and teaching suggestions available for use with SmartBoards. Activities embracing technology can be great hooks for engaging students—especially during the last weeks of school.

Here are some sites to consider:

<http://www.amymburns.com>

This is a blog site by an educational music educator. Amy Burns is the president-elect of TI:ME (Technology Institute for Music Educators). Additionally, Burns was a presenter at TMEA 2009. There is a vast amount of music technology information on her website under the “articles” section. If you dig deep in the links to “handouts” from workshops, you may find some excellent SmartBoard resources/activities.

<http://www.little-amadeus.com>

This site is developed around the television series, *Little Amadeus*. The show does not air in Houston, but there seem to be many resources and activities that can stand alone without knowledge of the series. In fact, there are many more links at the site than I have had time to fully explore. If you find something great at the site, please notify me or Mary T. We will share the information with others.

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