

As we approach the end of the school year, St. Monica students continue to excel in Music Class. The third quarter culminated with an outstanding annual Spring Showcase. I was very proud to receive so many positive comments about the show. Again, congratulations to the acts, emcees, and stage crew who made the event a resounding success. Also, thank you to the family and friends who continue to support Fine Arts at St. Monica School.

Our last Composer of the Month for the school year is Count Basie, a famous jazz composer and pianist. All grades are studying his life, music, and jazz in general. **Eighth graders** are also learning about the form and style of Blues.

The **Sixth and Seventh graders** will be working on a special feature in the Music Express Magazine titled *World Beat*. The *World Beat* section features rhythms from around the world that we can perform in class. We are starting with Calypso, which originated in Trinidad, and plan on “traveling” to South Africa, Gospel 12/8, and Louisiana Zydeco.

Third, Fourth and Fifth graders are learning more about singing partner songs, rounds, and counter melodies. These students always strive to use their voice to sing with appropriate dynamics and timbre. They will study special percussion instruments, new rhythms and different musical forms as we finish the year.

They also are enjoying the last issue of Music Express that features songs from *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *High School Musical 3!*

First and Second graders continue to learn new dynamics, rhythms, and ways to use their voice! They will also be learning how to improvise patterns on the xylophone. These students are beginning to sing in different parts using call and response. The first graders will also be spending time learning to sing from the Gather books in preparation for Mass next year.

Kindergarten students have enjoyed learning songs from different countries. They are also learning how they can move to music to express how the piece makes them feel. They are also learning that we all have different opinions about music and that's okay! They continue to enjoy playing classroom instruments and learn new rhythm patterns.

Thank you for another wonderful year at St. Monica School. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such dedicated students. I hope you enjoy all of the year-end traditions taking place in the next five weeks. Have a great summer vacation! I am looking forward to working with you next year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cervelli

