

The Cougar Beat



OUR YEAR-LONG THEME! Musically, a delightful school year is in store for us. We've chosen the theme "American Pop from 1776 to 1945" as our topic for musical study and exploration. Using historical events as a timeline, we'll be exploring songs that cover the spectrum from "Yankee Doodle" and the Revolutionary War to "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" from the Great Depression. Throw in some turn-of-the-century tunes, a bit of jazzy Gershwin, a tribute to great American composer Leonard Bernstein, and a few other delectable musical morsels, and you have quite a feast of genres and artistic styles. Of course, we'll be presenting some of what we've learned in our traditional November shows. More about those shows in Newsletter #2. Welcome back to Casis in 2009!



American Music--Colorful & Tuneful

OUR MUSIC NEEDS AND YOUR HELP.

We jump right in with concept and skill lessons, so, for **GRADES 3-5**, students need the following items *as soon as possible*:

Pocket Folder--any color

10 sheets of notebook paper

2 sharpened pencils

1 recorder (Yamaha brand is suggested.)

Students in **GRADES K-2**, need no paper supplies; however, **ALL STUDENTS, K-5**, could use your help with these aspects of their elementary music program:

Check to see if your child has music

homework. (3-5 minutes is all that is ever assigned and more is assigned in the fall than in spring.)

Remind your child to keep any study sheets, music folders, or recorders in his/her backpack, for easy access at home or at school. These reminders help us all to succeed!

The "CATS MEOW!" COLUMN.

We mentioned this last year, but, in case you missed it, we do thank the **CASIS PTA** for the many upgrades they have presented to the music department over the past several years: **new choirchimes, a new computer, new stage risers, and a new digital piano.** We feel very spoiled and are very appreciative, Casis PTA. Also, thanks to Principal Patty Martin who has wholeheartedly approved these purchases and supported our program day in and day out. Thanks, Patty! **Other news** includes a notice that **StageSong** classes begin soon; watch for flyers by email and in Friday Folders. Also, numerous **Music Assemblies and Field Trips** are scheduled, including Austin Jazz Workshop and The Austin Symphony, among others.