

GRADE 1 - PARENT MUSIC LETTER

Dear Family,

Your child lives in a world full of musical sounds. From the steady ticking of a clock to the whistle of a passing train, rhythms and tones surround your first grader. Children are naturally drawn to the simple melodies of familiar songs and the rhythmic beat of nursery rhymes.

During the next few weeks, your child will be introduced to several important musical concepts. Through listening exercises and singing games, your child will learn about steady beats, melodic direction, and musical dynamics. These building blocks can provide the foundation for a lifetime of music appreciation.

You can help reinforce the lessons your child is learning by drawing attention to the rhymes and sounds you and your child experience every day. You can point out the steady beat of the windshield wipers when you drive in the rain or help your child notice how the tone of a siren goes up and then down. While reading a poem aloud, you might tap out the strong beats of the poem. When singing a favorite song, try demonstrating your different voices: singing voice, whisper voice, and speaking voice.

Encourage your child to dance to the rhythm as she or he listens to music on the radio or on a favorite CD -- and you dance along, too! :)

Sincerely,

Mr. T Borden, Music Specialist

HE Hollingsworth Elementary School