

Dear Parents/Guardians;

September 2017

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as your child's Music teachers at Duke of Connaught P.S. We are looking forward to working with Duke's students in Music class and in extra-curricular activities, such as choirs and musical ensembles. We would like to inform you of a few guidelines to ensure success for your child in the Music program this school year.

The primary focus in Music this year will be on Vocal singing combined with playing Percussion/Rhythm/Orff instruments from various cultures. Students will also have the opportunity to:

- Sing a variety of songs in small or large groups in English and French (for the French Immersion/Extended French classes)
- Create various forms of music using different instruments.
- Play simple percussion/Orff instruments
- Listen to a variety of styles of music by various composers from different eras
- Listen to various instruments from each of the instrument families
- Express their Feelings (move, draw, describe, write) about music they hear
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of music, as well as practical skills.
- Learn about the main elements of music such as rhythm, beat, rhythm, pitch, and dynamics.
- Incorporate technology when listening to, responding to or composing music.
- Exploring different genres, cultures and uses of music in society through Inquiry.

In addition to those aspects of Music listed above, students in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be learning recorder this year. More information will be coming to those students in the coming weeks. Students in grades 4,5 and 6 will be learning (or continuing to learn) ukulele. Students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 will be developing their guitar skills.

Students at Duke of Connaught also have the opportunity to join choir this year. Primary Choir, for Grades 2 and 3, rehearses on Thursdays (beginning September 14th) Junior Choir, for Grades 4 and 5 students, rehearses on Tuesdays (beginning September 12th) from 11:25 a.m. until 12:20 p.m. Students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 may join Senior Choir which will rehearse on Tuesdays (beginning on September 12th). There will be a Grade 1 Choir Starting in January. Students must bring their lunch that day and eat lunch in the Music Room (Room 203 or 204). There will be separate permission form each parent/guardian must complete to participate in Choir.

Guitar Club -- Taking place on TUESDAYS after school - beginning September 26th for students in Grades 6, 7, and 8.

NEW THIS YEAR -- For students in Grades 5 through 8 -- Duke's *ENSEMBLE NOUVEAUX* taking place on MONDAYS at LUNCH beginning the first week of October. This ensemble will combine Voices, Instruments, Movement and Student Composition. We are excited to launch this ensemble this year.

Music classes will involve movement activities. Please ensure that students are wearing comfortable clothing and footwear (running shoes and clothing to allow ease of movement). Your child's safety is the most important factor in a classroom.

We are also interested in hearing from those parents who have a musical background (i.e. you play an instrument, play or sing with a musical group or make your living through music/media). Please contact us at the school to let us know your involvement in music.

If you have any concerns about your child's program in my classes, please feel free to contact us at the school to discuss your concerns. PLEASE REFER TO MUSIC TAB OF THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR UPDATES REGARDING PERFORMANCES AND PROGRAMMING.

Sincerely,  
Mr F. Caruso and Ms. A. Pierce