



# News and Notes

November 2010

The purpose of Music Ed Ventures is to search for and practice ways of making music and interacting with people that preserve and celebrate the dignity of both. As a guiding principle, this purpose will focus our work on:

1. Practices that foster interactive, facilitative learning environments.
2. Strategies that empower the learner within the context of music experience and study.
3. Networks that encourage collaboration between diverse disciplines, professionals, and interest groups.

**Are you interested in hosting a workshop or class in your area? Send requests to the email address shown above, to be routed to the appropriate presenters/coordinators.**

**Officers:**

**President:** Marilyn Winter, MT

**President Elect:** Judy Fjell, MT

**Past President:** Mary Springer, WA

**Secretary:** Pam Bridgehouse, OR

**Treasurer:** Anna Langness, CO

**Board of Directors:**

Bekka Butter Grathwol, MN

Yoshie Kaneko, Japan

Gina Adoff, MT

Janice Crawley, MT

**Membership Coordinator:**

Anna Langness, CO

Paige Macklin, MN

## From Our President Marilyn Winter, Butte, Montana

**As we move through our lives as teachers, can we ever REALLY KNOW if and how we are influencing those we teach?**

Mrs. English, a second grade teacher, was one who “ran a tight ship.” She believed students should behave in a certain way and she set about making sure this happened. On one occasion, while visiting music class, she observed the children singing “Rig-a-jig” and skipping joyfully around in a circle. Suddenly, Sammy, new to skipping activities, stumbled and fell down. Mrs. English jumped up, grabbed Sammy by the arm, jerked him up, and shouted, “You know better than that. You are just trying to show off. Now stop it!”

Not too long after this incident, Betty Hoffmann came to Mrs. English’s school to teach a class of Education through Music. Mrs. English decided to participate in Betty’s class. Little did she know this would change her view of child behavior. Here’s what happened:

During a game of “A Hunting We Will Go,” Mrs. English joyfully played, running at random across the circle trying not to get caught. Suddenly, Mrs. English and another player collided and fell to the floor. Mrs. English slowly stood up with a totally surprised look on her face. “OH, MY GOSH!” she said. “I now realize that kids sometimes do things unintentionally. Things just happen.” This incident permanently changed how Mrs. English looked at and dealt with her students.

When I visited with Betty about this incident. She had totally forgotten that this happened and hadn’t had the opportunity to visit with Mrs. English about her “a-ha” experience or to visit her class. So, Betty was never aware of how she had changed life for so many young learners. **So, I guess the answer is, “NO. We can’t always know if and how we are influencing those we teach.”**

**THANK YOU BETTY FOR ALL YOU HAVE GIVEN TO SO MANY OF US.**

**Happy Thanksgiving, Marilyn**

*News and Notes* is the monthly communication of Music Ed Ventures, Inc. (MEI). Regular features will keep members and friends up to date on coming events and the latest teaching techniques, tips and strategies. Submissions are due on the 15th of the month prior to publication and may be submitted months in advance, indicating the month in which they are to be published. The committee reserves the right to select material to be published according to length and appropriateness. Articles should be 200-325 words. Visuals should be scanned and submitted as PDF or jpeg files. Submissions may be sent to [PamBridgehouse@hughes.net](mailto:PamBridgehouse@hughes.net) and may be edited to accommodate space limitations.

## *Scholarships/Travel Grants for Conference 2011*

Send your letter of application to Marilyn Winter at [wintermf@aol.com](mailto:wintermf@aol.com) **as soon as possible**. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for application. Notifications of scholarships awarded will be sent in January.

Your request should include:

- Your name and contact information,
- Information about your teaching position,
- Amount requested.

Scholarships may be applied to registration and/or travel expenses. (Note: There is no registration fee for students.)

See the email below. It made me laugh. I have deleted the names to protect the ... "innocent?"

I'm going to reply to the sender ( a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher) that, prior to singing the song, he should remind the students to use their "musical voices."

It is amazing what a simple statement can trigger in our children's singing! For example, I use this at least once a week, "I really heard that you were **very** excited about that song! So excited that we forgot to sing, and started to yell. Keep that excitement, but also keep it **musical.**" TA - DA ! – magical change in vocal quality.

*Molly Feigal*

*Music Specialist*

*Grey Cloud Elementary (7:30 - 10: 30) 651-768-4279*

*Middleton Elementary (11:00 - 3:30) 651-768-4976*

[www.sowashco.k12.mn.us](http://www.sowashco.k12.mn.us)

**ISD833:** Serving all or parts of Cottage Grove, Newport, St. Paul Park, Woodbury, Afton, Denmark and Grey Cloud Island - all Eastern suburbs of St. Paul, Minnesota.

---

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2010 7:28 AM

**To:** Feigal, Molly

**Subject:** song: Happy Birthday

Hi Molly,

Would you have time to review Happy Birthday? Students seem to have problems singing it so it sounds good. Thanks!

second grade teacher