

Music 2020: Building a Music Kit!

Dear Parents,

This year, music class may look a little different, but it will still be wonderful! My name is Ms. Dias, and I will be your child's music teacher this year. I will be visiting your child's classroom each week with the Music Cart, delivering joyful and creative lessons.

Due to Covid-19, we will use "found" resources to create and explore some musical instruments! We will be learning how different instruments are made, where they come from, some history of the instruments, and the differences in their sounds. When we do use school instruments, each class will keep the instruments on a rotational basis.

Over the coming weeks, I will be asking students to build and bring in their "Music Kit". This kit will be touched only by your child. I will ask each student to bring a large Ziploc Bag (roughly 12"X 15") with their name clearly printed on the side. I will then assign 1-2 instruments per week for the students to find or make at home.

The instruments can be ready made. For example, if you own a small egg shaker or hand drum, you can use them in the kit. However, most items should be made from things around your home. Let the students be creative and have fun, while taking ownership of the instrument they are creating. They may also decorate the instrument if they wish to. I will always send examples and ideas for each instrument.

I am including the whole list for parents, but please do not send the kit fully done, as the goal is to teach the students about each instrument before building it. It will take several months to build the kit, but we will use it all year at school in addition to school instruments.

If you have extra supplies and would like to donate them for others, please send them along and I will sanitize and redistribute them. Your generosity to our program is always appreciated! Likewise, if you cannot find an item, just let me know and I will try to help!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at andrea.dias@nbed.nb.ca. Please include your child's class and school in the subject line of the email.

The Completed Kit Will Include:

- Sand blocks (pool noodles work great, and are on sale right now!)
- Shaker
- Hand Drum
- Rhythm Sticks
- Beat Board (to tap - like a container top or cutting board)
- Scarf (light weight for moving to music - about 1'x1' or 2'x2') - *Grades K-2*
- Cup (to learn cup songs) - *Grades 3-5*
- Guiro/Scraper
- Jingle Bells & 2 Disposable Plates
- Tennis Ball



For the week of Sept 28:

Please send your child to school with:

- **A large zip-lock bag** (roughly 12"X 15"), with the student's name printed clearly on the front.
- **Rhythm Sticks (2)**
 - Homemade rhythm sticks could be made from dowel rods, popsicle sticks, chopsticks, pens and pencils with blunted edges, or two straight sticks found in nature. You can choose any sticks that make a pleasing sound when struck! We will be reading a book called "Max Found Two Sticks" this week, to inspire our creativity.
- **A Shaker**
 - An egg shaker could be made from a Kinder egg container and rice, or a small Tupperware container and popcorn kernels, or a tiny box and dried beans.

The instruments should be sturdy, and may be decorated if you wish.

Best wishes,

Andrea Dias 😊