

Bellwood-Antis School District

Inidla - Thudhinan - IE and Inna

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Donna and Joy,

I would like to again extend my appreciation for your enjoyable, and very informative, presentation at Myers Elementary School on 19 October, 2011. You provided the students with a rich opportunity to experience in fun and interactive ways how music and history have come together to shape America, and how music has influenced our understanding of ourselves as Americans. Your keen integration of music with stories of our collective past, and your use of costume and instruments popular in early America - from the triangle to the fife and penny-whistle - provided all of us with a vision of just how important a role music has played in the history of our nation and the shaping of our national images and narrative. You also challenged the students to explore how important music is to not only our collective life but to our individual lives, in particular the value of music in the writing and sharing of our own, personal, life story. We too often take for granted music as a backdrop to what we do each day and, more generally, to the development of American society. But you animated a different way of thinking in your presentation by encouraging the students to keep close in mind that music is integral to what we do and to how we interpret and tell the history of our still young country. Finally, thank you for including Maestra Teresa Cheung in your program. Her participation added value to the learning experience for the students and complemented your presentation.

Jennifer Wright

Vocal Music Teacher Myers Elementary School



