



News and Notes

March 2011

The purpose of Music EdVentures 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.

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From Our President Marilyn Winter, Butte, Montana

First of all I need to tell you how very informative and useful our recent conference was. Every session was packed with classroom-ready ideas. I have heard from several of you who have taken activities back to your students with huge revitalizing success.

Another thing that is happening in our organization is activity on *Facebook*. Kari Wendroth has linked our membership together and much dynamic dialog has already taken place. Members can send Kari a "friend request" on *Facebook* and she will add their name to our private group. Thank you Kari. You are an important part of our next generation of Music EdVenturers. I am so eager to see where you all take us.

We are attempting to place video clips on our website to better inform teachers how to use SongWorks techniques and strategies. If you'd like to submit video for this purpose, please let Pam Vellutini or myself know what you can contribute. Information of how to link your videos to our website will be forthcoming soon!

The Fleurette Sweeney Fellowship for Emerging Pioneer in Education was an enormous success this year. Our organization helped eight Emerging Pioneers come to Portland for the conference. See complete report below. The MEI board has allotted monies for new Emerging Pioneers to come to next year's conference. Keep posted throughout the year for information about that Fellowship.

As I stated in my President's report to the MEI membership, it has been a very good year. Thanks for all you have done to make it so.

Marilyn

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

\$35 Regular \$50 Sustaining \$100 Patron \$10 Student

Send a check **payable to MEI** (US Dollars) to: **Anna Langness, MEI Treas**
1179 Lilac Street

Include your name, address, phone, and email. Broomfield, CO 80020

News and Notes is the monthly communication of Music EdVentures, 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 and may be edited to accommodate space limitations.

MEI is now on facebook.com Come join the fun!

*Visit www.musicedventures.org to read articles, get ideas, and learn more about Music EdVentures, Inc.
– a great way to teach and a fun way to learn!*

Post - Conference Comments

Thank you for a wonderful conference! All of you are with me today as I teach my students. I learned so much and feel so inspired!! I took some photos today of ideas I've used with my classes: dotting and ideographs to share a secret song on the white board... I feel more playful with my students today, and everything seems easier! *Vicky Suarez, TX*

Wonderful. I found value in every session. I think the quality of presentations is superb.
Jeanette Potvin, MN

I heard someone say, "if it's not feeling easy, then something needs to change." This stuck with me. It is not to say that teaching is easy by any means. To me this sentence implies that with the principles and the SongWorks ideas, the students are constantly engaged and interacting with the learning experience, resulting in a very organic process of discovery. As a new teacher, I've been making the mistake of "keeping a lid on things" so as to not lose control. After the conference, I am focusing less on management and more on intriguing questions and meaningful feedback for the kids. I already see and feel a huge shift in my classroom. *Angelie Timm, CO*

Played Tideo today with kindergartners. I had forgotten how nice it is. *Janice Crawley, MT*



First recipients of The Fleurette Sweeney Fellowship for Emerging Pioneers in Education
Vicky Suarez (TX), Angelie Timm (CO), Meghan Meloy (OH), Danielle Koplinka-Loehr (WA), Fleurette Sweeney (BC),
Kari Wendroth (MN), Danielle Sloan (TX), Jeanette Potvin (MN). Not pictured, Kelsey Jacobson (MN).

MEI creates
“The Fleurette Sweeney Fellowship for Emerging Pioneers in Education”

by Anna Langness and Judy Fjell

MEI has experienced a new wave of enthusiasm and energy! We now have an avenue for actively supporting promising new teachers and tapping their creative and leadership potential. This bodes well for the vitality and future of SongWorks and Music EdVentures, Inc.

When planning the 2011 Conference, Co-Chairs Judy Fjell and Kathi Smith envisioned sessions that would be presented by mentors and the talented teachers who have borne the fruits of that mentorship. When Judy explored this topic in a conversation with Peggy Bennett, Peggy helped this vision come to fruition by preparing letters of invitation to her former students. In publicity for this year's conference, these teachers were referred to as "Emerging Pioneers in Education."

Considering the expenses involved in attending conferences, it was clear that financial assistance would be necessary to implement this mentoring model. The MEI board has already made a commitment to fund the future of MEI in an ongoing basis through varied uses of established scholarship funds.

MEI President Marilyn Winter consulted many members and the MEI board to find a way to assist our "Emerging Pioneers in Education." A fund was established and approved by the MEI board to honor and celebrate Fleurette Sweeney -- the person who has played a central role in Music EdVentures and who has mentored many of us from the beginning of our careers. Recipients of the fellowship receive financial assistance to attend a conference and be recognized as "Emerging Pioneers." In return, they commit to developing their MEI leadership in the classroom and report these experiences to their mentors and the organization.

The MEI board is developing other fundraising strategies, including annual letters to membership. Attendees to this year's conference may have noticed a new scholarship funds contribution category on the registration form. Contributions to the scholarship fund this year totaled \$945. We look forward to the future of MEI thanks to the partnership of all of our emerging pioneers along with our entire body of past and present MEI members.

The recipients of the 2011 Fleurette Sweeney Fellowship for Emerging Pioneers in Education were Vicky Suarez (TX), Danielle Solan (TX), Meghan Meloy (OH), Danielle Koplinka-Loehr, (WA), Kari Wendroth (MN), Jeanette Potvin (MN), Kelsey Jacobson (MN), and Angelie Timm (CO). These teachers have been mentored by Peggy Bennett, Anna Langness, Marty Stover, Terolle Turnham, Paige Macklin, and others. Congratulations to all of you!

MEI honors Fleurette Sweeney



Photo by Anna Langness

In celebration of her role as teacher and mentor to all in Music EdVentures and in recognition of The Fleurette Sweeney Fellowship for Emerging Pioneers in Education named in her honor, Fleurette Sweeney was honored at the conference banquet. In celebration of her role as teacher and mentor to all in Music EdVentures, she was presented a picture of the Gary Price sculpture "Circle of Peace" on display in the Benson Sculpture Garden in Loveland, CO. [sculpture photo by Bob Langness]

The sculpture image of a circle of children at play captures Fleurette's playful spirit; it typifies her way of teaching and her dedication to the principle that play is the chief vehicle for learning and development in children.