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## Musical magic on the xylophone

These Stone School students perform on Orff xylophones, a new addition to their instrumental music curriculum, thanks to a grant from the JCS Fund of the DuPage Foundation for School District 4. Learning various instruments not only increases the students' musical knowledge but also the ability to work together in groups. Full story and more photos inside this issue.

# DuPage Foundation rep visits Stone School music classes

*Observes as students demonstrate learning experience*

By Dee Longfellow

FOR THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

In the issue of the Addison Independent issue published July 20, 2017, a story appeared about the DuPage Foundation presenting a grant to Addison School District 4 to enhance educational music programs.

Before Stone School general music teacher Kristine Brokos and Indian Trail Junior High School orchestra teacher Diane Morrill applied for a JCS Fund grant in the spring of 2017, they put together a wish list of items that could expand the music curriculum at all District 4 schools.

When they received the news that a seven-year grant in the amount of \$150,000 had been awarded to ASD4's elementary schools, they knew the wishes on that list were beginning to come true.

A portion of the grant was used to fund participation in Salt Creek Ballet's Orchestra Outreach Program for the students throughout District 4, exposing children to orchestral instruments, music, and dance.

Remaining funds allowed for the purchase of ukuleles, Orff xylophones, and small percussion instruments to provide students with a hands-on learning experience. Sets of early childhood age-appropriate percussion instruments were purchased for preschoolers at the Addison Early Learning Center.

Last week, District 4 reported that Laura Ernst, program associate for the DuPage Foundation, came to visit Stone School in late February to observe music classes in action. She wanted to see how the new instruments were being used in the classroom.

Stone Music Teacher Kris Brokos was happy to have three classes demonstrate not only what they have learned musically, but also how the instruments have helped them learn to work together.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

**These Stone School students play the Orff xylophone, while Music Teacher Kris Brokos directs the music class in the background. The xylophones were one of the items the school was able to purchase thanks to a grant to School District 4 from the DuPage Foundation.**



**Laura Ernst, program associate for the DuPage Foundation, stands behind a group of 2nd graders at Stone School, practicing their ukuleles. The instruments are a new addition to the music curriculum at District 4 schools, thanks to a generous grant from the foundation.**