



November 2009

Dear Parents,

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! The response has been overwhelming! I now have enough plastic bottles for our Make and Take a Shaker Days. Each child will make a shaker and I'd like to invite you to help on those days. Please fill out the attached volunteer form and I'll let you know if you're "on" for shaker days! The following classes will make shakers on **Monday, Nov. 16**: Mrs. Victorson, Mrs. Parente, Mrs. Occhiuzzo,, Mrs. Wyckoff , Mrs. Dravvorn and Mrs. Lorenz's afternoon class. Mrs. Lorenz AM class, Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. Hughes' classes will make a shaker on **Wednesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>**.

This month we're focusing on traditional American folk songs and dances. A favorite of mine is "Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley." Before we learn this circle dance, we'll look at bowls of oats, dried peas, kidney beans and barley pearls. Each class will receive a set of shakers with those materials inside. You can make more simple shakers at home using small plastic water or juice bottles. Please encourage your child to keep experimenting with a variety of materials in their shaker: pebbles, paperclips, small Lego's, etc. If the container is opaque you could make a listening game by making sets of two shakers with the same material inside. Your child could determine which two shakers sound the same.

Thanks for sharing your child's interest and delight in the music program here at St. Matthew's. I'm glad that the singing and dancing continues at home as well as in the classroom. There is something special about music that makes learning about the world around us easier. Music provides repetition that reinforces learning, a rhythmic beat that helps coordination, patterns that help in anticipating what comes next, melodies that capture our attention and hearts in enjoyment and words that are the building blocks of language and literacy. Music also supports many developing skills. It can:

- ❖ Build relationships, communicate feelings and provide comfort.
- ❖ Foster language development through stories, rhyming and rhythm.
- ❖ Develop individuality by allowing children to discover their own sounds and unique styles of music.
- ❖ Launch creativity by allowing children to fill in missing words, discover new sounds, or make up songs.
- ❖ Develop fine and large muscles through finger-plays, dancing, or playing simple instruments.
- ❖ Build coordination by letting children follow a beat and use their minds, voices and bodies together.

Please keep saving and sending in those **small metal coffee** cans for Make and Take a Drum Day in March. Please remove the label and rinse before sending the can in.

Keep singing and making music with your child!  
Kathy Lundgren  
Resource Teacher

✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂ Complete, Clip and Return ✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help with Make and Take a Shaker Days:

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AM or PM (circle one)

Circle date: Monday, Nov. 16 OR Wednesday, Nov. 18

### Oats, Peas, Beans

Oats, peas, beans and barley grow;  
Oats, peas, beans and barley grow.  
Do you or I or anyone know  
How oats, peas, beans and barley grow?  
First the farmer sows his seed,  
Then he stands and takes his ease;  
Stamps his foot and claps his hand  
And turns around to view the land.  
(Act out these motions).

Looking for a partner, looking for a partner.  
Find a friend and let them in and then we'll  
gaily dance and sing.  
(Children seek out a different circle of friends).

### Skip to My Lou

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou.  
Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou.  
Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou.  
Skip to my Lou my darling.  
(Children form circles and skip around.)  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Skip to my Lou, my darling.  
(Children stop skipping and pretend to cry.)  
I'll find another one, you, you, you.  
I'll find another one, you, you, you.  
I'll find another one, you, you, you.  
Skip to my Lou, my darling.  
(Children join a different circle.)

### Jimmy Crack Corn

Jimmy crack corn and I don't care,  
Jimmy crack corn and I don't care,  
Jimmy crack corn and I don't care,  
I'll work and play all day!

### Peas Porridge Hot

Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold,  
Peas porridge in the pot nine days old.  
Some like it hot, some like it cold,  
Some like it in the pot, nine days old.

### Thank You God (A table grace)


Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing.  
Thank you God for everything.



### Five Little Turkeys

Chorus: Run turkey, run turkey, run far away,  
For soon it will be Thanksgiving Day.

Verses:

Five little turkeys playing near the barn door, One ran away and then there were four.   
Four little turkeys playing 'neath a big tree.  
One ran away and then there were three.  
Three little turkeys playing "Skip to my Lou".  
One ran away and then there were two.  
Two little turkeys playing in the sun.  
One ran away and then there was one.  
One little turkey having no more fun.  
He ran away and then there were none.

### Chi Chi Cha Cha

Wake up toes, it's time to dance.  
Time to jump and time to prance.  
Hold it (echo)  
Hands up (echo)  
Chi chi cha cha, chi chi cha cha, go, go, go.  
Repeat the above sequence and each time add a new phrase:  
Feet apart  
Knees bent  
Knees together  
Bottom out  
Head up  
Tongue out.

### Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
(Children make the "peace sign" with two fingers on the word peace. On the word river their hand makes a flowing motion across the front of their body.)  
I've got joy like a fountain . . .  
(On the word "joy" the children clap their hands and then hands move up and out on the word "fountain")  
I've got love like an ocean . . .  
(On the word "love" the children put their hands over their heart. On the word "ocean" they move their hands out to their sides.)