

VILLAGE SCHOOL STUDENTS PREPARE TO "ROCK OUR WORLD"

This fall, third grade students at Village School will be participating in an exciting global learning experience, Rock Our World 13: InTOONnational. Our school was one of 45 schools on six continents chosen to participate in Rock Our World, a global learning project created by California teacher, Carol Anne Maguire.

The Rock Our World project connects students and teachers to collaborate in composing original music, making movies, and meeting each other via live video chats. Using Apple's GarageBand, each country creates a 30-second drum beat. Every Friday, that drum rotates to another country, where the bass guitar is added. It keeps getting passed along, from country to country. At each stop, one more instrument is added. When it comes back to the original country, it has touched students from all over the world!

While the music is moving, students are meeting each other in live video chats to discuss various topics of curriculum. This project opens lines of communication, between citizens of various countries and even other states, which normally would never occur. Instead of reading about the cultures of different locations, the students are able to "call them up," ask questions that are on their minds, and learn more about global friends. The most common discovery, how much we are all alike!

When started in 2004, the inaugural Rock Our World project focused on creating music together since music surpasses language barriers. While this is still the heart of the "Rock Our World" project, it has grown to include curriculum as well as working with other agencies such as NASA, Apple, Nike, the American Film Institute, Lintor Publishing, and even actor Will Smith.

This thirteenth season of Rock Our World is dedicated to creativity and the topic of peace! When classrooms around the world put their minds together, we can come up with many solutions to make the world a more peaceful place.

We will be working with award-winning author and illustrator of "The North Star", "The Dot" and "Ish", Peter Reynolds. Peter is also bookshop owner, founder of FableVision, and an advocate for creativity and children of all ages! He will be teaching the international team the art of animation. As we learn tips and tricks from one of the world's most talented and inspirational artists, we will also be sharing ideas on the topic of peace. Our final challenge will be to inspire students and teachers to collectively create an animated short movie on one solution to creating peace on our planet.

Village School is very excited to have been chosen for this opportunity, having participated in season 12 of Rock Our World last spring. Third grade students will be working in Technology class to create an animation "What does Peace look like to you?" and in Music class composing music tracks that will travel around the globe.

The project culminates with an International Family Night, where classes around the world meet to enjoy the created animations, listen to the global music creations, and watch live video interviews from each participating school. This fall's Rock Our World International Family Night will be held Friday, November 19th! The entire international Rock Our World team will stream in live via video chat. Each school, including Village School, will be introduced, our globally collaborated upon song will be shared, and our Animation-ish video about "PEACE" will be shown. Finally, students will be interviewed in a live broadcast - answering preselected and rehearsed questions.

- *Jayne Johnson, Director of Academic Technology*

