

VEMEA Article

Well, it is that time of year again, when we begin a new school year. I hope each of you have had a wonderful, restful break and are ready to hit the year running. This is indeed a new start for me this year. I have a new principal and assistant principal in place as well as getting my music room back after losing it two years ago. I am psyched to begin the new school year.

Our plans for conference are well underway with a variety of sessions in place. I hope you will be able to join us at the Homestead this year, November 17-19, 2016. Make sure you register online to attend. We have the following sessions planned for you:

- Jim Tinter – Boomwhackers – The Big Band for a Baby Budget
- Paul Corbiere – Drumming the Elementary Music Room: Something for the little guys & Happy Jammin’: From BAGs to Riches
- Debra Kay Lindsay – Celebrate MIOSM!! – A 2017 Concert for Music in Our Schools Month
- Kalani Das – World Drumming Boot camp & Strum and Drum
- Denise Gagne – Vocal Warmups, Rounds and Energizers, Ukulele and Guitar in the Elementary Music Classroom, & Singing Games that Teach – melody, rhythm, form, expression
- Eric Young – Children’s literature in the K-5 classroom
- Lynn Rechel – Elementary Choral Reading Session

Our All Virginia Elementary Chorus will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Grassfields High School in Chesapeake. Ernie Stokes will be our liaison for the event. We appreciate his hard work toward this endeavor. As of this date, we are not sure who will be conducting our students. Please look for the information on the VEMEA website for details and deadlines. We look forward to another successful concert as Jason Kriner again puts his master touches on the event!

Our elementary grant applications are on the VEMEA website. We will award three \$500 grants to deserving proposals. Deadline for the application is November 15, 2016. All grants will need to be sent to me. Contact information will be on the site and as well as the application. If you can use a few extra dollars that will benefit your program and colleagues, feel free to apply. The process is easy!

If you have any ideas or concerns, please feel free to let me know. We will do our best to continue to move our organization forward. In the meantime, please remember to check out our website for information about the All Virginia Elementary Chorus and VEMEA grant program. I thank you for allowing me to serve as your president!

Here’s wishing each of you a wonderful school year!