

Welcome Back to Music!

September 2017

Dear Miquon Families,

While hoping that all of you are still savoring the last flavors of summer, as you receive these letters, I realize that we can already “see Fall from here!” Consequently, excitement and thoughts are pouring into this next school year’s planning.

I’m Diego, Miquon’s music teacher. I have been teaching general music for seventeen years now and this is going to be my seventh year at this lovely school. Back in 2000 I completed my three levels of Orff Schulwerk certification (the most world wide renown music pedagogy) in Rome, Italy, where I lived and taught music in daycares, preschools, kindergartens and elementary schools. After moving to the U.S., along with working for Temple Music Preparatory Division in its early music program, I earned a B.M. in Music Education from West Chester University. And then I fell in love with Miquon!

The music program is based on a spiral curriculum *par excellence*, where the same skills and concepts are refined and deepened along the years. As I often do, the school year will begin with a strong focus on rhythm, mostly through movement and voice, to dust away any possible summer rust on a crucial skill for group music making. Instruments will follow, singing will always be present!

The overarching leading question, across the ages, is as usual: “What is music?” which will allow us to discover any possible amount of music in a wide range of activity, from movement to body percussion, from rhyme to song. Then, the corollary question, particularly for the younger ages: “Where is music to be found?” Is it in the guitar? is it in the drum? is it in my mouth? is it, oh my, in the CD player?

This year, with new teachers coming on board and new teaching teams across the grades, will provide interesting opportunities and exciting challenges. I will work for the program to be of help in the cohesion and continuity across the groups. I will implement this year, for instance, a group sing that involves both Nursery and Kindergarten and, on the other end of the spectrum a more formal choral and instrumental experience for mixed groups of 5th and 6th graders so to prepare them for the music programs that awaits in their future middle schools.

I’m looking forward to this new year of musical adventures, welcoming back my “old” students over and eagerly getting to know the new ones.

Diego Maugeri