

Leila's long history of a strong Arts program has continued in the 2019-2020 year!

BAND

Here at Leila North, our **Band** program continues to thrive! This year, we welcomed Mr. Tsui on the Leila North band team, which has enriched our French Immersion program by including French instruction in band classes. With this addition to the band team (and an additional band room), Ms. Kosheluk and Mr. Tsui are able to provide more specialized instruction to our band program of over 400 students!

Our band students in Grades 6 through 8 have had wonderful experiences this year, including:

- **November 7** - Grade 8 band performance of O Canada at the Remembrance Day Assembly
- **January 23** - Grade 6, 7, 8 Winter Concert in the Leila North Gymnasium
- **February 12** - Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) Quintet performance in the Leila North Gymnasium
- **February 18** - Grade 8 band performance at the Classic 107 Concert Band Festival

This year, Mr. Tsui started Leila North's first Jazz Band! Our 25 member, Grade 7/8 Jazz Band rehearsed once a week and performed at our Winter Band Concert. Students who are involved in the jazz band have the opportunity to learn the electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard and drum kit in addition to their main band instrument!

In remote learning, our students participated in virtual conference classes, and continued to develop their instrumental and music literacy skills by completing and receiving feedback through a variety of musical assignments. Lastly, our Grade 6 and 7 French Immersion students culminated their term's work in a virtual concert performance.

Grade 6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IktMIE4eTJA>

Grade 7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=217CcDf-shI>



Grade 8 Band at the Classic 107 Concert Band Festival

FIDDLE

The **Fiddle** program at Leila North, directed by Mrs. Warner, involved over 70 grade 6-8 students this year. The Seven Oaks School Division has a thriving, busy, dynamic fiddle program involving well over 1000 students, and our Leila fiddlers enjoy opportunities to meet fiddle students from other schools and make music with them.

Fiddle classes took place at Leila on day 2.

Twenty-two of our Leila fiddlers practiced hard this year to be ready to perform at Jamboree 2020, to be held on May 19 at SOPAC. In the absence of that event being held, many of them continued practicing at home and participating in online jams, and some contributed performance videos to video collaborations, along with fiddlers from other schools.

Three of our Leila fiddlers (Monica Rocha, Ethan Pereira, and Malia Koblun) took on an extra project this year by preparing for performing with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra concert that would have taken place on April 27. They attended early morning rehearsals and worked hard to learn a classical piece – “Great Gate of Kiev” – which they had to memorize in order to perform on stage with the WSO.

Two of our Leila fiddlers (Monica Rocha and Malia Koblun) were members of 7Oaks Fiddlers, a divisional multi-level group that meets every Thursday from 3:30-5:30 at ESOMS, with Mrs. Warner. This year we had participants from five different schools, and this was a wonderful experience for our two students who had the opportunity to play along with students from intermediate to advanced level, and ranging from grade 4-11. In the place of our final concert, which would have taken place on April 23, we collaborated in a video of one of our performance tunes.

Mid-March, Leila fiddlers were gearing up to perform at the fiddle/choir concert at the beginning of June.

We look forward to many future opportunities to get together at a later date to make music, whether virtually or in person!



Vanessa Santome, Monica Rocha, and Jamila Pasaraba contributed to the “Beautiful Skies” video collaboration (screen shot above) with James Nisbet Community School.

Here is the link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXW1TS_Afo4&t=8s

Another video in which Leila and James Nisbet students participated:

John Allen’s Jig: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHh3_jG2wJI



Malia Koblun (2nd from right), a member of the 7Oaks Fiddlers, performs with the group at their showcase in February at ESOMS.

CHOIR

The **Choir** program at Leila saw almost 250 students enrolled between grades 6, 7, and 8. The students were excited to learn music from many different music genres such as pop, classical, and folk music from around the world. Outside of the choir class, students had the opportunity to join the pop choir which rehearsed at lunch once a week and explored popular music and movie soundtracks. The grade 7 and 8 students also had the opportunity to audition for one of two jazz choirs that practiced after school once a week. The jazz choir students learned microphone technique, solo and scat singing skills, and studied a variety of music, from jazz to pop. Our performances this year were:

November: Grade 8 mass choir performed at the Remembrance Day Assembly in the school gym

December: The pop and jazz choir students combined to sing Holiday Carols at the Health Science Centre and Garden City Shopping Centre

January: All 6 choirs performed at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre for our annual Winter Choral Celebration

Although our performance season was cut short, our students were looking forward to performing at the Brandon Jazz Festival in March and our bi-annual Spring Concert in June.

In distance learning, the choir students took on mini projects that included song comparisons, composition, and even making their own glass orchestra. The grade 8 students of the senior jazz choir also took on the task of learning a new song and created a virtual choir performance for their grade 8 farewell. A youtube link to the performance can be found below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPBYN4PRnZA>



The Grade 7 Choir performing at the SOPAC in January, 2020

Dance

The **Dance** program at Leila this year was offered in rotation with the TAA classes. Students in grades 7 and 8 had the opportunity to take ballet, jazz, tap, and hip hop. These classes not only taught the students proper dance steps and choreography, but explored the history behind each style of dance and focused on body image and health. In distance learning, many students learned online routines from youtube videos and recorded themselves to share.

Students in grade 6, 7, and 8 also had the opportunity to participate in the dance teams that rehearsed once a week at lunch. The teams were working hard to learn new dances in preparation for the divisional dance day in April at the SOPAC. While the groups did not get to perform, they enjoyed the choreography process and are looking forward to finishing the dances in the fall.

The Musical

The annual musical production at Leila North provides an array of opportunities for students to be involved as singers, actors, dancers (cast), and set/costume/props designers, and sound/light technicians (crew). This year, Aladdin Jr., was scheduled to run at SOPAC (Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre) through the last week of April, 2020. Our dedicated cast and crew had begun their rehearsal work in the Fall, 2019. The students demonstrated impressive readiness by our March rehearsals, we were measuring for costume sizes, and were incorporating more show set pieces and props before March 23rd. After that, we were faced with the challenge of connecting online, but we were inspired by the cast interest in wanting to

remain connected and rehearsing their roles through April and May, 2020. In early June, small groups of the cast attended an in-person, physically-distant, non-singing practice in the school's gymnasium. We are excited to announce that Aladdin Jr. is scheduled to run October 5th through 8th, 2020 at the SOPAC. More information will be made available in September.

