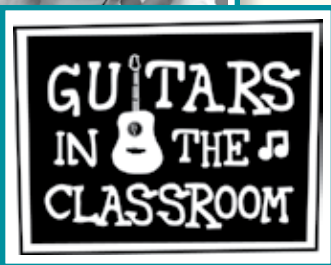


New from GITC!

the Amigo project

Achievement through Music Integration with Guitars



NAMM[®]
2008 Grant Recipient

Success in school and throughout life is dependent on creative thinking and communication skills. Yet, as school music programs decline and communicating in English presents a challenge for a growing number of Spanish-speaking children, standardized tests have revealed the presence of an achievement gap between Hispanic students and their Caucasian peers in these two essential areas.

To help close this critical gap, GITC's groundbreaking new AMIGO project aims to boost core learning for English Language Learners (ELL) by introducing bilingual music making to the classroom environment. In California alone, AMIGO has the potential to benefit tens of thousands "at risk" students.

The AMIGO project's goals are to:

- Engage all Styles and Levels of Learners.
- Boost Learning, Literacy and Language skills.
- Improve Fluency, Comprehension, Spelling and Vocabulary in English.
- Increase Student Enthusiasm and Participation.

In order to achieve these goals, the 2008-09 AMIGO pilot program brings together ELL experts and music specialists to create teacher training methods and materials, including books, handouts, CDs and DVDs. This initial phase of the program also offers training classes and in-service days for teachers in California and beyond.

AMIGO follows the concepts behind classic education-through-music programs like Sesame Street and Schoolhouse Rock but goes further—applying Guitars In The Classroom's tried and true "Strum & Sing" teacher training model to engage teachers and students in topical songwriting, singing, strumming and performance. In addition, AMIGO adapts the lyrics of traditional American folk songs and familiar Spanish language favorites such as La

Bamba, Guantanamera and Mi Gallo to support core subjects such as math, science, social studies and language arts.

Using AMIGO's proven teaching methods, specially-adapted "Songs for Achievement" in both Spanish and English and Total Physical Response (TPR), a technique for whole body learning and assessment, AMIGO-trained pre-K through sixth-grade teachers will be better able to teach their Spanish-speaking students to listen, learn, speak and create in English. And, because AMIGO incorporates simple, well-known, three-chord songs and open guitar tuning, the learning process will be fast, easy and highly effective for teachers and students.



"Amigo" is the Spanish word for friend. The AMIGO initiative is all about making new friends through music so that we can all make a difference in children's lives. Gracias for your support.

Jessica Baron

Executive Director AMIGO and GITC

Every day, as AMIGO teachers lead their Spanish and English speaking students in singing, strumming, composing and performing, they'll be doing more than just making music together, they will also be bridging gaps, building stronger communities and changing lives the GITC way.

Guitars in the Classroom (GITC) inspires, trains and equips classroom teachers to integrate music-making across the curriculum through "song-based learning" so all students from pre-school through high school may participate in and learn through making music in school each day, accompanied by guitar. Our programs provide group guitar, singing, song leading, songwriting, and lesson planning instruction so teachers can integrate music according to education standards through hands-on learning.

GITC's industry supported programs also include Artist Outreach and Registry initiatives for professional musicians who want to make a difference in the lives of children and teachers. To learn more, log on to www.guitarsintheclassroom.org.

Guitars in the Classroom thanks NAMM (The International Music Products Association), GAMA and The Guitar Center Music Foundation as well as its loyal and generous sponsors for their help in bringing the AMIGO project to life in 2008!

Guitars In The Classroom Sponsors

The NAMM Foundation • The Guitar Center Music Foundation
The John and Joan D'Addario Foundation • D'Addario Foundation for the Performing Arts
GAMA • The Music For Life Alliance

Acoustic Guitar Magazine
Daisy Rock
Sejung ASC Guitars
Kay Guitars

D'Addario Strings
Samick Music
Levy's Leathers
Planet Waves

Dunlop Mfg.
Godin Guitar Co.
Martin Guitars
Roland

String Letter Publishing
Kaman/Takamine
Peak Music Stands
Eastman Strings

Guitars In The Classroom

884 Viva Court • Solana Beach, CA 92075 • tel: 858.755.2239 • email: guitarsintheclassroom@gmail.com • www.guitarsintheclassroom.org