

Hannah Bradt

Mr. Speice

ISM 3A

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### One Step Closer

#### Weekly Report 4/25 - 5/1

This past week in ISM, students continued to work on multiple assignments, all focused on the common theme and upcoming deadline of Final Presentation Night. As May 25 continues to draw nearer, many students in the program, including myself, have begun to make a mad dash towards the ‘finish line’ of the program, as we all strive for near perfection for this major event. Personally, I have begun to become increasingly aware of the largest nearing deadline: May 18. On this day, all ISM students at Reedy must submit their finished Final Products, which must represent their work and research from throughout the year, and must present a solution to a problem in their field, or provide some way to benefit the field in general. Because my idea for my product was very broad, it took me a large chunk of time in the beginning stages of creating products to merely decide on how to divide my time evenly between research, mentor visits and observations, and actually creating the product. In the end, however, judging by what I have been able to complete thus far, my final product has the potential to be very beneficial to the field of Elementary Music Education, as well as education as a whole, because it will provide educators with a basic understanding of the ways in which elementary age students can be recognized to develop throughout their elementary life. My product will also include an analysis and

breakdown of Jean Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development, which will further allow them to acknowledge different age groups and identify the certain characteristics that should be present at each age. Although I have encountered some difficulties, such as my previous plan to create worksheets or evaluations to go along with my product, I feel that it is beginning to finally come together in one successful piece.

The second factor that took up the majority of my time this week was my preparation for my Final Presentation Night rehearsal speech, which will take place in class on May 2. Because this is the last speech that we will be giving in ISM before FPN, I wanted to ensure that everything looked and sounded good. This meant that I turned most of my attention to making improvements in my visual aid. After completely recreating my presentation to match my chosen color scheme and present more information, I feel that my presentation is much more appealing, and will be more successful in communicating the same information that I will be speaking on. Although the many upcoming deadlines in preparation for Final Presentation Night are somewhat intimidating, I am doing my best to remain calm and on top of my work, so that I am not struggling to complete every detail at the last minute. In the next week, I plan to complete the majority of my final product, so that I can move into the revision stage with my mentor. As the ISM program has taught me, staying alert and aware of what I must do in order to complete projects sufficiently will allow me to receive the feedback and grades that I am looking for. As the final six weeks of school begin, I look forward to seeing what journeys the rest of the year in ISM holds for me.