Weekly Focus: The A Note

So far, we have learned C, D, E, F, and G on the clarinet. In the musical alphabet we stop at G and then start over which means the next note after G is A. The note A that we are learning has a higher pitch than G and is played by pressing down the top-most front key that is shaped like a silver tear drop. You press this key down with the side of your first finger so that you don’t have to move your first finger very far from the top hole where it rests. This is what the fingering chart for this note looks like:

Warm Up:

Start off by playing C, D, E, F, and G in a row using whole notes. That means you will hold each note for 4 beats before switching to the next note. Try to start each note with your tongue and take a big breath for your best sound. Next, you can try playing each of these notes for the value of a half note (which means only holding for two beats before moving on) and afterwards play them each for the value of a quarter note (which means holding for only 1 beat before moving on).

Next try our warm-up song, *One Step at a Time* (#25).

Musical excerpts to Practice A:
Now try playing an A for a whole note, which means 4 beats. Make sure that it sounds higher than the G you played in your warm-up. Next try playing 4 quarter notes (one beat for each quarter note) on the A using your tongue to start each note.

And now we are going to try putting A into a song! Let’s play #34 Farm Out (see below). Can you find the A notes in the song? Remember to check your posture and your hand position before starting. Now take a deep breath and play #34 Farm Out.

MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS
For Clarinet Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.
https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV