

The children are doing a wonderful job in music classes. We are using movement, games, songs, dances, and classical repertoire to learn about many different musical concepts. Through songs and movement activities, we can explore the different elements of music, such as form, beat, rhythm, tempo, and melody. Songs that help us get to know each other better, reinforce school rules, and tie in with classroom curriculum subjects have been featured in these first few weeks of school. Each class has also taken part in activities that demonstrate form in classical music through listening and moving to Beethoven's *Fur Elise* as well as selections from other famous composers. Students also enjoyed partaking in music games outside which reinforce singing skills, beat, and various rhythmic patterns. In the classroom, second and third grade students have enjoyed rhythm sticks and movement activities to such songs as *Un-Deux-Trois*, *Hambone*, and *You've Got a Friend in Me* while kindergarten and first grade favorites have included songs such as *Aiken Drum*, *Morgan the Monkey*, and *The Dinosaur Dance*. As our year progresses, each class will be further exploring rhythm, instrument timbre, and singing skills that are specific to each grade level. Progress reports will be based on the musical standards, which are: *Skill Development*, *Reflection and Critique*, *Making Connection*, and *Approach to Work*.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to teach your children in music class. It is a joy to experience the sounds of their beautiful voices and be a part of their growth in all areas!

