



MUSIC NOTES:

Our musical year has gotten off to a great start! All classes have been involved with singing games, dances, and other musical activities to help us experience various concepts. In the lower grades, we have been focusing on singing, listening, and feeling the beat. Children have used voices, rhythm instruments, and movement to demonstrate their knowledge of beat, tempo, phrases, and musical concepts such as high/low, loud/soft, and fast/slow. In the upper grades, we have been reviewing the difference between beat and rhythm as well as exploring notes on the musical staff. All classes have also been learning some new songs that tie in with curriculum areas – specifically, apples and harvest in the K-1 classes and migration in the 2-3 classes. Furthermore, all classes have enjoyed the classic tale of Peter and the Wolf. We have listened to the music, identified instruments, and used various puppets to help us retell the story. There are many different versions of this book, and I have recently purchased a new one from Barnes and Noble that comes with a CD. The story has a gentler ending than some of the other versions. Folk dances from around the world continue to be another music class focus. The children in the K-1 classes have learned dances from Norway, France, and Hawaii. The 2-3 classes have been learning dances from England, Mexico, and France. Participating in folk dances is another way that we are reinforcing musical form (including hearing phrases), feeling the beat, and encouraging positive social interactions through partner changing activities. We will have an opportunity to share some of our favorite songs, games and dances with our families at events this year. More information will come home about these performances in future editions of Sum-It-Up. Thank you!

December 23rd, 1:30 p.m. – School Sing-A-Long

January 21st, 8:15 a.m. – Third Grade Musical Showcase

February 18th, 8:15 a.m. – Second Grade Musical Showcase

March 12th, 6:00 p.m. – K-12 Arts Night at the High School

March 25th, 8:15 a.m. – Kindergarten and First Grade Musical Showcase

April 6th, Evening Spring Concert for Grades 2 and 3 (time to be determined)

May 4th, Evening Spring Concert for Kindergarten and Grade 1 (time to be determined)

Thanks so much for all your continuing support. The talents of your children are amazing!

Wendy Valastro

Pictures from the Music Room

