

And So We Continue...

Wow! I can't believe how quickly October has flown by! We had so much fun in music this month as your boys and girls settled so well into kindergarten!

I am so pleased to report that ALL of the classes are doing very well in several areas in music. First of all,

the boys and girls are doing an awesome job following directions! This is one of the most important things we teach in music and in kindergarten overall, so what a blessing for the students to have learned so quickly!

This month, we also focused mostly on two things: different kinds of voices and percussion instruments. As stated previously, the four kinds of voices are singing, shouting, whispering, and speaking, and our boys and girls have aced all of those now. A few days ago, I assessed the students on use of their singing voices, awarding 3 points for a singing voice on the right pitches, 2 points for a

singing voice but the not quite the right pitches, and 1 point for answering but with a speaking voice. I am so excited to tell you that almost every single child received a "2" or a "3." This will be reflected in your child's report card in November.

Another very exciting part of October was making our very own instruments, which we have just finished as of October 30. Your boys and girls will bring their instruments home in early November. Why don't you ask them to practice the 3 ways to make percussion instruments: hitting, shaking, and scraping on their own creations?

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED FOR HOME:

- ◆ Sing along in the car. Encourage your child to tell you whether the song is high or low.
- ◆ Move to the music! Encourage your child to move his or her body along with music.
- ◆ Reinforce the concepts! Figure out with your child what kinds of everyday objects could be made into instruments by hitting, shaking, or scraping them!
- ◆ Have your child repeat things to you in any of the four kinds of voices: speaking, shouting, whispering, and singing. This reinforces the directions you give and makes it fun, too!

What Are We Doing This Month?

November begins our focus on celebration days, such as different holidays and songs that go with them. We will also continue to ace our singing voices and spend time playing many different percussion instruments!

Major concepts:

Singing

During November, our singing lessons will focus on songs using "sol," "la," and "mi," and understand the difference between high pitches and low pitches. We will practice matching

our voices to the high and low pitches.

Percussion

November will continue our practice on percussion instruments, but will focus on correctly playing as many different instruments as we can while accompanying the singing we do. The official percussion assessment will occur just before Thanksgiving.

Holiday Songs

Students will celebrate the upcoming holidays by learn-

ing songs about Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We will celebrate the ideas of thankfulness, kindness, and generosity in the songs we learn, and have a great time singing, dancing, and (pretending to go) ice skating!

Listening

Our listening skills will be improved during November as we listen to music that only uses instruments and talk about how it makes us feel.

