



April 2010

Music Notes

This month we are singing some spring songs. One of them says:

It is spring
Come let us sing!
It may snow or winds may blow,
But it is spring!



We found that these words are very true! The students improvised on the metallophones and glockenspiels to make gentle 'snowflake' music. They watched the 'conductor' for cues as to when to pick up the mallets, when to begin playing and when to stop. Plus, some of the older students noticed a few changes of dynamics and tempos within the song. That is what professional musicians do!

We have talked about the families of the orchestra (string, woodwind, brass, and percussion) and listened to sections of Benjamin Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" to hear how these families sound. We will then be listening to "Peter and the Wolf" by Prokofiev and later, Vivaldi's "Spring" from "The Four Seasons."

We have also been talking about opposites, especially how our voices go up and down, not to be confused with louder and quieter. This is preparation for simple melodic reading on a 2-line staff. We begin with "Follow Me, My Friends" and will be reading from left to right and learning that notes can go up, down, or stay the same.

The children are taking turns playing up and down on the metallophone. They may be asked to walk, run, jump, or slide with their mallets on the instrument. We are singing the C Scale by numbers, letters, and solfege (Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La-Ti-Do) and using the "Doe-a Deer" song from "The Sound of Music" as a starting point.

Until next month.....

Leta