

MAY 2008

Music

Dear CDS Parents,

It has been such a wonderful thing to see your children continue to develop their musical skills and concepts. We have just begun our new theme of Habitats and Life Cycles. Some of these songs teach metamorphosis and life cycles and some are simple, fun insect songs!

The 2 year olds are working hard on their rhythm skills...many are able to see a ta-ti-ti rhythmic pattern and sing it back to me! We are also learning about the fermata....a note that you hold out for a long time, often placed at the end of a song or cadence. Have them show you their fermata!

The three year old classes are working on time signatures, specifically, 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4. We are adding up our beats and rhythms and placing them in the correct time signature. This is fun to see their music and math come together! We are also singing an insect song in addition to the whole school "Habitat" song.

The Pre-K classes are working on the RATS musical. These students have been invited to perform at the May 21st event which includes the enrichment program, the beginner band and the art show. These two classes have recently blown me away with their ability to repeat 8 beat patterns on sticks, no small feat!!! We are also beginning our recorder play. Our Habitat song is called "Going Down to Mexico," about caterpillars and butterflies.

The Kindergarten class is continuing to work on Recorders. We have begun to put the three note patterns we have learned to work though "Hot Cross Buns" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb." We look forward to sharing with you our progress! We are also learning the Habitat song as well as our own Life Cycle song. In addition

to those songs we are working hard to learn all of the lyrics in the RATS musical! I am so proud of how these young students are learning to perform!

Ms Butler's 1st and 2nd Grade class has just begun to learn how to play an "oldie but goodie" song on the Glockenspiels! We will keep it a surprise for the next whole school circle, but I am sure you will be as impressed as I am with their work! We also spend a great deal of time putting together the musical ideas and rhythmic concepts that we have been working on since the beginning of the year. I am so pleased with their note reading abilities! Ms. Moriarty and I introduced the 1st and 2nd grade classes to a new computer program called Finale Notepad that encourages composition. We will continue to use this program throughout the year.

Ms. Cole's 1st/2nd Grade Class is in the process of composing their own song about Habitats and Life Cycles. The chorus to this song came directly from one of the students in her class, who sang it with such clarity for me, that I couldn't change a thing! It's quite a catchy tune and we are having fun with this one! We are also playing music theory games...these are challenging but fun!

Mrs. Reed's 3rd-5th grade class is taking off with the beginner band program, I can't tell you how fun it is hear two and three part harmonies come out of these instruments. We are also learning a two-part song called "I am a Small Part of the World." Recorders have become a regular part of our Monday classes and we are currently working a classic, wonderful composition by Aaron Copeland.

-Angela Kelly