What we are learning…

in 1st Grade Music

January

The first grade music classes are studying “Peter and the Wolf” by the Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. This work was written to help children learn the instruments of the symphony orchestra. Be sure to help your child practice learning the instrument names and the character that each instrument plays in the music. Ask to see the composer page on Sergei Prokofiev that you child will bring home.

The first grade students will look at several other instruments including the trumpet, trombone and string bass.

We are reading and writing rhythms. Ta ( q ) represents a beat with one sound, ti-ti ( sd) is a beat with two sounds, and rest ( Z ) is a beat with no sound. We began writing rhythm patterns in a variety of ways using ‘body beats’, picture icons, and craft sticks. Soon we will use the standard music notation of quarter notes ( q ), eighth notes ( n ), and quarter rest ( Z ). Students are beginning to identify familiar songs by reading the song’s rhythm.

Daily music activities always include singing. We continue to build a repertoire of songs, games, and rhymes. In the area of melodic study, the first grade classes are singing songs and identifying the pitch patterns in them using hand movements, body signs, and the words high/low. We will soon name these pitches and begin singing pitch patterns in addition to rhythm patterns by reading the music notation.