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Congratulations to instructors celebrating their Kidstunes anniversary this month.

Ebony Jenkins will celebrate 3 years with Kidstunes on 5/4 and **Amy Hughes** joined the team 1 year ago on 5/23!

Musical Children



Lara's Letter



May 2018



During the month of April we divided our own classroom Percussion instruments into “mini-families” (like jinglers, shakers, tappers, etc.),

and then explored the other orchestral families - Strings, Woodwinds and Brass. We discovered that they are usually grouped together if their sound is produced in a similar way (hit/shaken, strummed/bowed, or blown into) AND/OR if they are made of similar materials. Sometimes it's not so obvious!

We listened to examples of their sounds (often with one of the real instruments!) and met many members of each family, big and small! We also saw how the musicians are

seated on the **Orchestra** stage and learned about the importance of the **Conductor**. His or her job is to lead a large group of musicians, playing many different instruments, while conveying tempo, dynamics, and expression without any words at all. WOW!

Students may have even had the opportunity to see what this was like as they held the Conductor's **baton** and became a “guest conductor” for their class.

“[My daughter] had SO much to say about the string family. She is not a very chatty kid, but she talked the entire way home and all the way through dinner about music class. She wants to “play the ukulele and grow up to be just like you”.... - Parent from Hawfields

Music Around the World



Each summer our students embark on a journey “Around the World”. Our musically-based summer program will provide your child with unique, fun-filled weekly music instruction. Classes incorporate music, instruments, songs, dances and traditions from all around the world!

Among other treasures from this unit, students will receive their very own keepsake “passport” with the flags from each country they visit. As they travel and learn about each destination, their teacher will stamp their passports just like a real one. At the end of the summer students will take them home to remember their adventure!

A Mother's Day Song

Tune: "Mary Had A Little Lamb"

Mother's Day is coming soon,
Coming soon, coming soon.
Mother's Day is coming soon,
Here is what I'll do.

I'll give her a great big hug,
Great big hug, great big hug.
I'll give her a great big hug,
That is what I'll do.

Then I'll give her a great big card,
A great big card, a great big card.
Then I'll give her a great big card,
That says that "I Love You".

- Jean Warren

May - Moods & Styles of Music



Moods and Styles of Music begins in May as we pull ALL of the concepts we've learned over the

course of the year together! We will discover how **steady beat, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, expression, and the unique tone color of each instrument** combine to create a vast array of different expressions or **MOODS**.

Music can convey happiness, excitement, sadness, fear, anger, and so much more. We'll incorporate lots of listening and creative

movement, explore feelings and how they are displayed, and create our own musical art as we show how different pieces of music make us feel!

These elements also help in the creation of different **STYLES** such as classical, jazz, country, soul, pop, etc. Students will explore various styles and be encouraged to express themselves through interaction with each new medium.



Musical Moments

Musical Mood Charades:

Isn't it amazing that music can show what we are feeling?! Although some of that has to do with the way a song is written, most of it has to do with the delivery of the person performing.

Here's a fun game to help you and your child explore the different possibilities of your **musical expression:**

First, choose a basic nursery rhyme like "Row, Row Your Boat" or "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Then, take turns singing and acting out that song in a different mood. For example if you are sad, you might sniff and cry while attempting to sing. See if you can guess what mood the other person is trying to convey.

For Styles of Music:

Choose another classic nursery rhyme like "Baa Baa Black Sheep" and sing it in different styles. The other person must try to guess what musical style is being conveyed (opera, country, rap, blues, jazz, pop etc). Pictures that represent each style may be helpful with this activity.

Two great examples of this are these renditions of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" by **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Elvis Presley**. Both of these can be found on YouTube.

