



## **Winter 2014**

**Kindergarten** students continue to practice various tempos while we march and sing. Other skills we have worked on this year are fast/slow, high sounds/low sounds, and loud /soft. We, also, work on recognizing and performing steady beats. During the common core unit on Native Americans we learned *Grinding Corn*. It is song that the women sang as they worked. It helped pass the time as well as keep a steady beat with which to work. We have learned the rhyme Old King Cole and practiced it using the various skills listed above.

**First** grade students had a lot of fun when we read and sang Christmas Song of the North in January. (We call it *The 12 days of Winter*). Each of us had an animal and stood to sing our part when it was time. That really kept us alert and gave us a chance to sing a solo or duet. We just learned a song called *Habitat*. Ask your child about it. During our study of instruments and their families we learned to play the xylophones to a song about the EARTH.

**Second** grade: We are learning about the performing art of BALLET. We are discovering that there is a lot of work that goes into a production and that dancers have to be very ,very strong! Many of our areas of study align with the common core domains as we learn about the music in Ancient Greece, railroad work songs during the Westward Expansion, the Star Spangled Banner(Written during the War of 1812, and the underground railroad and the Civil War. One song we learn in this unit is Follow the Drinking Gourd as well as other spirituals. We are excited about it as spirituals are the roots of jazz which began in our country.

**Third** graders are studying OPERA as we watch *Amahl and the Night Visitors* We have learned that opera is a story told through song. EVERYTHING is said in a singing voice .We recognized, sang, and acted out leaps in music notes to *GULUMP, Went the Little Green Frog*. In January we sang The 12 Days of Christmas and changed the words using appropriate nouns, adjectives, and verbs. It was great to hear the *Tender Shepard* song at the high school musical, Peter Pan, as we had just sung it in class!