Dear Families,

Many of us have fond memories that involve music. What special music do you associate with important celebrations? What kind of beat can you not help but tap your feet to when it comes on the radio? Have you noticed your child tapping along with you? What songs from your childhood do you and your child enjoy singing together? Music has a wonderful way of translating across many generations, cultures, languages, and communication styles. We are excited to begin a study of music making in our class that will engage and build on children’s curiosity around music, sound, and performance.

If you can, we’d love your help gathering items to investigate. We’ll need many different objects and pictures related to music making. Below is a list of suggested items, but you may also send others not on the list that you think may add to our explorations. Please label all items with your name so we can return them to you at the end of our study. We promise to take good care of them! Also, please let us know if you or a family member is involved with music making (e.g., plays, fixes, or teaches an instrument; sings in a choral group or band; works in a job related to music making) and would like to share this talent with the class. We would love to arrange a time for you to join us in our investigations.

**Instruments:**

Drums Rhythm Sticks Cymbals Triangles Gongs Jingle Bells

Resonator Bells Step Bells Xylophones Flutes Violins

Electronic Keyboard Instruments from other parts of the world Homemade Instruments

**Materials:**

Sheet music CDs or tapes of Music Collections Photographs of unusual instruments

Programs or photographs from musical performances Microphone Baton Pitch Pipe

Metronome Children’s books containing songs.

As we study music making, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We’ll also develop thinking skills as we observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

**What You Can Do at Home:**

Listen for music throughout the day with your child. We often don’t even notice the music that plays in the background of our everyday lives. Discuss the music that you and your child hear. How does it make each of you feel? Does it sound like any other music you have heard?

Talk about favorite music styles and songs with your child and share why you enjoy them. Create a list together of your family’s favorite songs.