Charlie Parker once said, "Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out your horn." We've listened to music and have had the opportunity to express ourselves during this unit. Let's glance at our progress!

Abiyoyo by Pete Seeger had us all in suspense as we listened to the tale of a young boy who lulled a great giant to sleep through his ukelele playing. Who knew that this ferocious looking giant would be so fascinated by a song all about himself that he’d dance until he dropped - literally! It was a convenient moment for the boy’s father to “Zoop, zoop” the giant Abiyoyo with his magic wand. This disappearing act was the most popular of the father’s tricks. In fact, his tricks that once had him ostracized from the town, were now his greatest attribute! In celebration of a tale well told, we made our own magic wands; explored xylophones and autoharps; and reenacted the story using the shadow screen. It was a delight!

Clearly music has an effect on people. In The Bremen Town Musicians by the Brothers Grimm, we learn that the animals in the story rely on music for comfort, as well. The tale of four furry friends reveals that each one is no longer wanted by the owner. In an attempt to find a better life, the animals bond together with the intent of creating their own band. Little did they realize that their voices would be used to save their lives from pesky robbers near by! As they unite, they form lifelong friendships. At the Children’s School, we also bond through our experiences. We discovered the sounds of our own voices through recording sound effects. Animal shaped cookies made for a fine-motor fun fest with friends! Pasta was glued to paper to create music masterpieces. Cat headbands were all the rage when worn before lunch together!

Ending our music unit with Charlie Parker Played Bebop by Chris Raschka helped us round out our music time with a little jazz. This nonsensical jazz rendition was a great experience as we listened. We had fun tapping melodies on half-full glasses, practicing rhythms, playing “A tisket a tasket”, going on an instrumental scavenger hunt, finger painting to bebop music, and practicing musical games on the iPad! It is hard to believe that our formal music exploration time has come to an end, but we will keep exploring informally!

Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Loomis, Miss McMichael, Mrs. Opferman, and Mrs. Tomer