

Future

Welcome back!

It was lovely to see so many happy faces upon return to school. Routines and familiarity are essential to students feeling comfortable and safe. Thus, this week in music class, the teacher allowed time in her lesson to familiarize students with the lessons' flow, rules, and plans for this quarter. It was pretty much the same in other classes of the 4th grade. It was clear from how quickly students settled back into school that SOLAN is somewhere where the students know their routines and our expectations. And therefore, feel safe and happy to learn. A great start to a new school year!

Before the students joined, we had some very successful training days for the staff. We looked at our use of data to see how we support students and checked the appropriateness of assessment. We also looked at how we use displays in classes to celebrate and support students' learning.

In this year's first music class, the 4th graders explored music as a concept. They had discussions on what music is, what makes it good, and what one calls a good performance. Students made some excellent points and showed real perseverance when discussing those topics. I was happy to hear so many different opinions. One student said that to make music more expressive, you should think of what feelings it evokes and imagine in detail the scenery that comes to your mind. Students understand that music evokes emotions. They are eager to learn more about music-making and performance. Even if the class is in English, they are fully engaged in the lesson. Although it might be hard to understand everything the teacher tells, students try to understand at least the ideas she wants to get across.