

"Nestcracker" – April 13th, 2017

On Thursdays we are privileged to welcome Garrett, an educator & musician from the Orange Room, for a special "Music Meeting." Observing the children joyfully singing, listening, & grooving reminded Kalei it's been quite a while since we've explored ballet in the classroom. After Meeting she asked a few children if they might like to dance, which they were most amenable to, so we set up the projector to play *The Nutcracker* (despite it being quite out of season). Witnessing the children interact with *The Nutcracker* & then reflecting upon our prior experiences with ballet through this diary, a lengthened, strengthened thread of learning becomes evident.





Clockwise: Evelyn points to "a princess"/ Eden embraces Ruth during the "scary" rat scene / Julian observes from the sidelines / Charlotte, Cyla, Kahlan, & Violet lay holding hands



Left...after seeing Evelyn & Elena put on dresses "to be princesses"...

Charlotte: "I want to be a fairy [puts on wings]. Are there any dresses left?" [there aren't]
 "I'm making my own dress!"
 (later, when the snow scene begins...)
 "I'm not a fairy anymore I'm a 'slowflake'!"



Kahlan: "Where's Clara? I want to be Clara?"
 Kalei: "Did everyone hear that? Kahlan knows that there is a character named Clara. Do you know what this ballet is called?"
 (some murmuring among the group until their collective knowledge leads them to an answer)
 Elena: "Nestcracker!"
 Kahlan: "No, *Nutcracker!*"

(when the rat & soldier fight scene is over)
 Elena: "I think they're [the nutcracker/prince & Clara] going to find a house. Them got married."
 ...
 Elena: "There's the prince & 'Clarabell!'"
 Violet: "She's CLARA."
 Ruth: "Boys can dance too."
 Elena: If the prince is wearing ballet shoes he's gonna do the ballet.