

## "Nestcracker" – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 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.



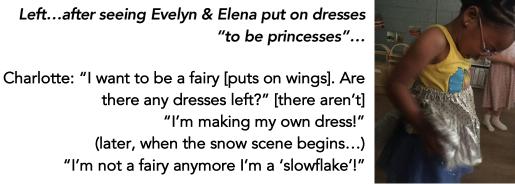




Clockwise: Evelyn points to "a princess"/ Eden embraces Ruth during the "scary" rat scene / Julian observes from the sidelines / Charlotte. Cyla, Kahlan, & Violet lay holding hands



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





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.