

Students, parents find out learning music can be fun

A principal played a trombone, a mother made hand movements to a song about musical notes, and everyone was tapping their feet during a playful Music Workshop held today (April 28) at Butterfield Ranch Elementary School multi-purpose room in Chino Hills.

The two-hour event was the brainstorm of Chino Valley Unified School District music teacher Mike Noffsinger who wanted to bring his young musicians from Butterfield and Chaparral elementary schools together in one big room.

"It's kind of a grand experiment," Noffsinger said, to draw attention to music skills, and to "build a meaningful bridge between general music and band."

"Music brings us all together," Noffsinger said as he led off the workshop with a song that reminded those attending, including parents, that "Everybody's Welcome." More than 80 students participated, while approximately 90 parents and school staff members watched.

He told the young musicians that throughout the district, students were getting ready for or taking annual tests to gauge what they have learned. "For students of the arts, the number one means of assessment is performance...It requires listening and collaboration," he said.

During the event, Noffsinger had students sing a song about how musical notes are arranged. At one point, he asked the audience to join in and parents tried their best to form a musical note with their hands.

Students learned about counts in music by forming a large circle and tagging each other on the eighth count of a song to dance across the circle. By the end of the song, dozens of students, educators, and parent volunteers, were skipping, twirling, and hopping from one side of the circle to the other.

Accompanied by Noffsinger on the piano, students played recorders and sang an original song about going to the grocery store.

Later, Butterfield Principal Rod Federwisch played the trombone, and a speaker from the Orange County Pacific Orchestra addressed the students.

Prize drawings were also held for a variety of items, including pens, Superman water bottle covers, and bongos.



Young musicians from Butterfield Ranch and Chaparral elementary schools play the recorder during a Music Workshop held at Butterfield on April 28.



Music teacher Mike Noffsinger, playing a guitar, performs a song about musical notes.



A student leads other students in a singing game in the Butterfield Ranch multi-purpose room.



Students and adults dance inside a circle as they tag each other on the eighth count of a song.



Students use their hands to show how musical notes are arranged.



A student band gets ready to perform for the Music Workshop.



Teacher Mike Noffsinger accompanies students on recorders, performing an original song.



Parents try to form a musical note as part of a song about the arrangement of notes.