



### **1st week - 19 - 22 november 2013**

**Mercredi:** I witnessed El Sistema France in action for the first time, on Wednesday, for the first orchestra rehearsal of the week. I could not have been more impressed with the intense focus of the children, as maestro Alcides directed exercises in listening, ensemble and technique. Just before the orchestra was dismissed, Alcides passed me the baton, and after a very brief explanation on bow technique, I led the entire string section in a bowing exercise! The power of El Sistema is truly amazing.

**Jeudi:** Thursday was a very intense day for the children. The morning provided a continuation of wednesday evenings orchestra rehearsal followed by a crash course in theory and solfege in the late afternoon. In addition to these rehearsals, Alcides and I were able to run small string sectionals throughout the afternoon focusing solely on proper technique. This was by far my favorite part of the day as I was really introduced to the children and had the ability to transfer a solid technique firsthand. I had a wonderful first week and am eager to continue this great work, next Tuesday, with the choir rehearsal.

**Harry Rich**