

**Through music history, we have heard stories of bullies being mean to musicians because of their skin color. In some classes we defined this as racism. All students schoolwide have engaged in conversation about race. We have agreed that it is NOT “OK” to be mean or bully someone because of their color, country, culture, name or language.**

**3rd graders** should have received a recorder (Tuesday, January 19th for remote students and the week of the 19th and 25th for in school students). We will begin learning the basics of playing the instrument. Remote students will be able to play at home and in school students should bring their recorder to school with them to class. Although we will not play the instruments in school, we will continue to practice moving our fingers and holding the instrument correctly while singing the notes.

**3rd, 4th and 5th graders** worked for months on an original composition (writing a song). I encourage you to ask them about it and listen to their songs. They worked very hard and all their songs were amazing, inspiring, made me cry with happy and sad tears and have shown that our children are not too young to start composing or creating music.

We have started to learn music from a program through Carnegie Hall called *LINK UP, THE ORCHESTRA ROCKS*.

**4th and 5th graders** please try to find the recorders they used last year. Any recorders that were left from last year have been given to the in person classes and were scheduled for pick up for remote students.

**Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders** have engaged in conversation and counting in multiple different languages. We have also engaged in discourse on racial inequity. Students are encouraged to tell an adult if they experience or see any form of bullying. We have traveled around the world to sing songs from different countries and explore instruments and musicians.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** We will start holding auditions for the Talent Show. I will post on my Google Classroom and talk about this in class to explain how to submit your audition.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Ramsingh