



February 16, 2010

Dear Parents,

The second and third graders have started their recorder unit, and they are very excited about playing a "real" instrument. Second graders will work on five note pieces. Third graders will be playing over an octave. (It is only a few months until they will have the opportunity to choose a band or orchestra instrument.)

Practice is a very important part of learning any instrument. I would ask that each child practice ten minutes a day. The student will not only learn the recorder, but at the same time each student is learning note names, rhythm, style, and playing musically.

If your child is having difficulty producing the proper tone, here are some helps:

1. Each finger needs to cover the hole completely. Sometimes when one more finger is added, the student moves a finger that is already down slightly. This causes a squeak, rather than the tone.
2. It takes very little air to produce the tone. If the student is getting a high whistle, it is usually too much air through the recorder.
3. The three notes we have so far require: one finger and thumb for B, two fingers and thumb for A, and three fingers and thumb for G.
4. The left hand must be used for these notes as the right hand has to play the double-hole notes at the bottom of the recorder.
5. After students have played awhile, they may need to cover the "fipple" hole and blow. This produces no tone, but pushes the condensed moisture out of the instrument.
6. Plastic recorder can be washed in hand dish soap once every couple of weeks.

God's blessings be with you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robinson
Music