



August 2013

Dear 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents,

This is the year your children have anxiously been awaiting: the year they get to learn to play the recorder in music class! Each child will be provided with a recorder, a folder, and a packet of music at no cost. Students will be responsible for taking care of these materials and bringing them to class on a weekly basis. Students who do not have these materials with them will be unable to fully participate in class. Any student who loses his/her recorder will be asked to purchase a replacement by bringing in \$3.00.

During class, students will learn the skills necessary to read the notes of the treble clef as well as rhythmic patterns and breathing techniques. Students will also work to develop a good tone on the recorder. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade learn the pitches G, A, B, low E, and low D. With these pitches, students will be able to play a variety of simple songs on the recorder.

Students at Desmares will participate in a program known as Recorder Karate. Students will learn and rehearse songs in class before performing playing tests. Each playing test assesses the student's ability to play on pitch with rhythmic accuracy and good tone. The students will be given a copy of the music that is required to play for their belts. Once the student has shown, through a playing test, that he/she is capable of playing the assigned song, the student is awarded a "belt" (similar to that awarded for passing a Karate test). The student then ties the belt onto his/her recorder.

In order to excel at recorder playing, students will need to spend extra time practicing at home to reinforce the skills and concepts they have learned in the classroom. When our recorder unit begins, each student will receive a monthly "Practice Chart" on which they will log the days they practice and the amount of time they spend practicing. **Parents should sign the practice chart each day the student practices as evidence that they have completed the requirement.** Students will hand in their practice chart at the end of each month, but may be asked to show the practice chart to the teacher throughout the month. **Students will be asked to practice for a minimum of 5 minutes a day, 5 times per week.** Additional practice is certainly encouraged.

For more information including practicing tips for students, a chart of all the recorder fingerings, and digital copies of the monthly practice charts, please visit my website. Thank you and I look forward to helping your children create beautiful music!

Sincerely,  
Cassandra Kiesling