

Dear Susono-city,

My name is Artemisa Perucho-Green, and I am a first grade teacher in Poway, California. I wanted to share my overwhelming appreciation for sharing the melodions with us!

I taught music to three first grade classes this year (children 6-7 years old) using the melodions you so generously provided us. Children here do not have the opportunity to play music until they reach fifth grade (around 10 years old), and at that point they may play an instrument if they choose to, but it is not an educational requirement. Many children never have the opportunity to learn music. I feel very strongly that music, like other forms of art, is a universal language that all children should be required learn from an early age. Your instruments have already provided around 75 students the opportunity to read music and play an instrument at an age where they are still fearless, curious, and excited to try new things. They have learned to read and play basic rhythms and notes, and participated in creating music in a group with their classmates. Some of these children who would otherwise skip out on learning an instrument in fifth grade may look back upon their happy memories of playing the melodion and pick a new instrument to learn. For this, I am particularly grateful.

When I was 12 years old, I had the unique opportunity to attend a public school in Tokyo, and learned that all children were taught to play the melodion in school from an early age. It opened my eyes to the fact that educational systems differ around the world, and that our system here in the USA could really pick up some tips in how to create a well-rounded education for children!

Again, I cannot fully express the appreciation for your generosity and willingness to help bring music into the lives of young children here in Poway, California. These memories will stick with them for many years to come!

¡Doumo arigatou gozaimasu!

Artemisa Perucho-Green