

## Superintendent's Highlight December 7, 2018



I was invited into the Old Bethpage gym to listen to the melodious sounds coming from the newly-crafted instruments created by the students in Mrs. Candal's fourth grade music classes. They had collaborated with Artist in

Residence, Rohin Khemani, from "Bash The Trash", to invent musical instruments using only recycled materials. They composed program music as accompaniment to the poem "Jabberwocky", by Lewis Carroll, and performed these pieces for third grade students.

Students were challenged to create instruments from each of the families (percussion, woodwind, brass and strings). Some students invented a single instrument that had features of more than one family such as the "BANGJO" which can be plucked and struck. Throughout this wonderful experience, students were engaged in designing, problem solving, teamwork and performance. They learned about vibration as the science of sound and experimented with changing it to raise and lower pitch. Straw oboes needed to be cut in perfect isosceles triangles to produce a good tone. Strings (fishing line) over a "tin can resonator" on a piece of Styrofoam to amplify their sound and cut-off recycled soda bottles became "bells" to their paper towel roll brass instruments as they learned to "buzz" their lips to create trumpet fanfares!



The entire school came together to collect the materials used for this project and discussions on how they could reduce, reuse and recycle to create a "clean and green earth" were ongoing throughout the entire experience. Some of these instruments will be incorporated into the Winter Concert as an improvised ensemble to accompany the chorus in their "scat

singing" and some will be featured at this year's STEAM Night. I cannot wait to hear these students again as they "Bash The Trash"!!