

Rosa Parks kids are ready to play!

Rosa Parks Elementary School's recent musical extravaganza featured the school-wide orchestra and band concert. Afterward, third-graders participated in a hands-on "instrument petting zoo" provided by the Lexington Philharmonic's Joe Tackett. The kids also rotated through a sampling of music from around the world provided by parent musicians playing a koto, Native American flute, concert harp, guitar, banjo and harmonica.

"My favorite was learning about the instruments and how to play them. I enjoyed playing the clarinet -- it was really loud. I had trouble on the trombone and trumpet. The guy from the Philharmonic was funny explaining each of the instruments," third-grader Shelby Scroggin said. "I have never been able to pick up or try any of the instruments that were there until today."

Of third-graders surveyed after the March 25 program, 61 percent said they would like to participate in either 4th-grade orchestra, 5th-grade band or both. Shelby wants to play the clarinet or violin.

The extravaganza was a project of Janice Derrickson, a parent and fellow of the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL), with support from the Rosa Parks administration and orchestra teacher Rebecca Goff.

CIPL develops parent leaders so they are able to work as informed partners with schools with a focus on improving student achievement. This is a free training that accepts 30 participants to attend the fall institute. If you are interested in CIPL, visit www.cipl.org or call the Prichard Committee at (859) 233-9849 ext. 223 or 231.