

Hello – my name is Jay Taneja, and I am a student at the University of California, Berkeley, in the U.S.A. I spent the summer this year on an internship working for Microsoft Corporation in Bangalore (but have since returned to the U.S.A.). This project arises from a personal motivation - sports have always been a passion of mine and I would like to encourage more kids to play sports, **have fun**, and learn important values such as discipline and teamwork. To further this goal, I have set up a website to collect monetary donations from my friends and family in the U.S.A. and India, with the interest of donating equipment to your and other schools. In addition to sports equipment, the donation contains music equipment as well. The items selected were as a result of my visit to two different schools; I hope that the sports and music equipment can contribute greatly to the students' education and enjoyment. Please accept this equipment as a gift, take responsible care of everything, and ensure that all of it is available to the students of your school for many years to come.

I ask that in return you please add this equipment to your stock list (or inventory list) and provide us with a Xerox copy of the entry; this will ensure that you have received and documented the items. Thank you.

I have included my contact information, as well as the contact information of my colleague in India should you have any questions. Additionally, I have included a full list of the equipment with pricing information for your records, as well as some interesting facts and brief instructions for each item so that you know the intended purpose.

**Contact information for me:**

Jay Taneja  
1141 Colusa Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707 U.S.A.  
Email: jay.taneja@gmail.com

**Contact information for my colleague in Bangalore:**

Saurabh Panjwani  
Mobile: 9739418378  
Email: saurabh.panjwani@microsoft.com

Best wishes to you and the children - enjoy!

## **List of Items Included in Donation**

### *Sports Equipment:*

- 3 Volleyballs (1 @ Rs. 340, 2 @ Rs. 200 = Rs. 740)
- 2 Footballs (2 @ Rs. 250 = Rs. 500)
- 1 Throwball (1 @ Rs. 365 = Rs. 365)
- 1 Air Pump (with 2 inflation needles included) (1 @ Rs. 495 = Rs. 495)
- 10 Cotton Skipping Ropes (10 @ Rs. 25 = Rs. 250)
- 5 Nylon Skipping Ropes (5 @ Rs. 75 = Rs. 375)
- 5 Badminton Rackets (5 @ Rs. 135 = Rs. 675)
- 5 Boxes of Shuttlecocks (10 per box) (5 @ Rs. 140 = Rs. 700)
- 2 Cricket Bats (1 @ Rs. 285, 1 @ Rs. 425 = Rs. 710)
- 4 Boxes of Tennis Balls (6 per box) (2 @ Rs. 192, 2 @ Rs. 288 = Rs. 960)
- 1 Set of Cricket Stumps (6 stumps with bails included) (6 @ Rs. 35 = Rs. 210)
- 15 Pairs of Knee Pads (15 @ Rs. 80 = Rs. 1200)

Total for Sports Equipment = Rs. 7180

### *Music Equipment:*

- 2 Snare Drums (12"x10"), each with a pair of Snare Drumsticks (2 @ Rs. 1800 = Rs. 3600)
- 1 Bass Drum (24"), with a pair of Bass Drumsticks (1 @ Rs. 2850 = Rs. 2850)
- 1 Set of Hand Cymbals (12") (1 @ Rs. 1500 = Rs. 1500)
- 2 Triangles (each with metal beater) (2 @ Rs. 175 = Rs. 350)
- 2 Pairs of Maracas (2 @ Rs. 175 = Rs. 350)
- 2 Snare Drum Straps (2 @ Rs. 295 = Rs. 590)
- 1 Bass Drum Strap (1 @ Rs. 395 = Rs. 395)
- 1 Bass Drum Stand (1 @ Rs. 450 = Rs. 450)
- 3 Pairs of Snare Drumsticks (Extra) (3 @ Rs. 95 = Rs. 285)
- 2 Pairs of Bass Drumsticks (Extra) (2 @ Rs. 185 = Rs. 370)

Total for Music Equipment = Rs. 10740

Total for Donation = Rs. 17920

## *Sports Equipment:*

**Volleyballs:** These volleyballs should be used only for volleyball, as they are likely to get damaged if kicked or thrown. Volleyballs differ from footballs in that they weigh less. They can be inflated using the included air pump and inflation needles.

**Footballs:** These can be used for playing football as well as for throwball. They are more durable than volleyballs. Football is my favorite sport, so I hope the children enjoy it! These balls can be inflated using the included air pump and inflation needles.

**Throwball:** This is a sport I had never heard of in the U.S.A., but I understand it is popular in India. This is an extremely durable ball, and can be inflated using the included air pump and inflation needles.

**Air Pump (with inflation needles included):** This air pump, operated by pressing your foot on the pedal, is for inflating the balls included in this donation (volleyballs, footballs, and throwballs). Also included with this air pump are two small metal inflation needles, needed to insert air into the balls. To use this device, unlock the gold-colored metal end of the hose, remove the spout (which is used for inflating bicycle and car tires), and insert the thicker end of the inflation needle. Moisten the needle slightly before inserting it into the small rubber hole that is on each ball, and operate the pump until the ball is suitably inflated. Please take extra care with this device, as the needles are small, delicate, and easy to misplace and lose.

**Cotton Skipping Ropes:** Skipping ropes (or, as I knew them, “jump ropes”) are a good form of exercise, and can be used by one person (swinging and jumping the rope themselves) or three people (where two people each swing one end of the rope and one person jumps over the rope each time it comes around). These cotton skipping ropes are less durable, but are good for beginners as they do not move as quickly. More information can be found online at the following link:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jump\\_rope](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jump_rope)

**Nylon Skipping Ropes:** Though these nylon skipping ropes can be used in the same fashion as the cotton skipping ropes, they move faster and are intended for more advanced users.

**Badminton Rackets:** Badminton is a sport that is very popular in Europe and Asia, though it is not very well known in the U.S.A. It is generally played on a court with a net, with two players (or two teams of two players each) on opposite sides of the net. A net is not at all required though. The record speed of a “smash” (where the player hits the shuttlecock as hard as possible) is over 330 km/h! More information can be found online at the following link:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badminton>

**Boxes of Shuttlecocks (10 per box):** These can be used with the badminton rackets, but can also serve other purpose than for playing badminton. The national sport of Vietnam is called “kick badminton” and is played by using similar rules as badminton, except you are only allowed to

use your feet to propel the shuttlecock. In central Brazil, a common game played at primary schools is called Peteca, and is played with similar rules to badminton except only the hands may be used to propel the shuttlecock. Shuttlecocks are often made of real feathers, though sometimes they are made of synthetic materials (plastic/nylon). They are also known as “birds” or “birdies.”

**Cricket Bats**: Though many think cricket is the national sport of India, that distinction belongs to hockey. This is a sport that is popular mostly in Commonwealth (former British Empire) nations, and thus is not often played in the U.S.A. The bats included in the donation are intended for use only with tennis balls (regular cricket balls will damage these bats).

**Boxes of Tennis Balls (6 per box)**: These can be used for tennis, cricket, baseball, softball, or a variety of other ball games. Each year, 300 million tennis balls are produced, with 90% of balls being made in Southeast Asia, where rubber is an abundant natural resource.

**Set of Cricket Stumps (with bails included)**: The stumps and bails form a wicket. In cricket, a batter is said to be out when a bail gets knocked from the top of the wicket (either by the ball, the batsman, or a fielder holding the ball before a batsman has reached the wicket). Wicket is also sometimes used as a term for the pitch that cricket is played on, for example in the term “sticky wicket,” which is used to describe a wet cricket pitch.

**Pairs of Knee Pads**: These knee pads are intended for use in volleyball, kabaddi, and kho kho. Kabaddi and kho kho are both games that were unfamiliar to me before I came to India. The name kabaddi derives from a Hindi word meaning “holding of breath,” which is part of the rules in some variations of the game. Kabaddi originated in India, but has spread to Southeast Asia, Iran, and Japan. It is the national sport of Bangladesh. Kho kho, thought to be invented in Maharashtra state, is most popular in India and Pakistan. Though it has been played since ancient times, the first official recorded rules date from 1924.

## *Music Equipment:*

**Snare Drums (12"x10"), each with 3 pairs of Snare Drumsticks and a leather strap**: Also known as a side drum, the snare drum is used by hitting wooden sticks against the head, rim, or shell of the drum. This drum produces a lighter sound and is often used to provide the “backbeat” (or rhythm) in rock and pop music. Extra drumsticks have been included in case sticks are broken or misplaced. The leather strap can be attached to allow the drum to be held more easily.

**Bass Drum (24"), with extra Bass Drumsticks and a leather strap**: The bass drum produces a deeper sound, and should be used with special bass drumsticks that have an enlarged soft mallet on the end. Please use only special bass drumsticks to make sure the bass drum does not get damaged. Bass drums are often used to “keep time” while playing music, providing the beat of the music and the pattern of movement for those in a marching band. The leather strap can be used to hold the drum more easily. Alternatively, a stand has been provided to let this larger drum sit on its own without the strap.

**Bass Drum Stand**: This stand has two adjustable settings that can each be locked using the metal pieces on the side of the stand. This should primarily be used to hold the drum, as less damage to

the drum is likely.

**Set of Hand Cymbals (12")**: The word cymbal derives from the Latin and Greek for “small bowl.” These have been used for musical purposes since at least ancient Egyptian times (5,000 years ago!). Please treat these very gently, as they can easily be bent and broken if not cared for.

**Triangles (each with metal beater)**: I do not believe this instrument is well-known in India. It is common in Latin music (i.e. in Spain or Central/South America) and usually provides a high-pitched pinging sound. One important feature is that the metal triangle is not closed – what this allows is an “indeterminate pitch,” meaning that the pitch can be changed by holding the triangle at different places. The triangle can either be held by the hand or suspended by a string, and in either case should be held at some point in the middle and not at the end. As there are no extra metal beaters, please take care to not misplace it. More information about the triangle as an instrument can be found here:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triangle\\_\(instrument\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triangle_(instrument))

**Pairs of Maracas**: This very simple-to-play instrument is native to the countries in the Caribbean Sea, especially popular in Puerto Rico and Jamaica. Though the version of the instrument you have is made of metal, these can also be made from natural materials such as a dried gourd with beans inside. Usually, one person plays two maracas at once, with one in each hand. Noise is made by shaking the maracas, not by hitting them on anything else.