

Odaiko New England brings Japanese drumming to Hadley

Tue Feb 27, 2007, 08:45 AM EST

SWAMPSCOTT - Hadley School students participated in a unique educational performing arts event with Odaiko New England on Feb. 13. In this lively program, students explored the ancient Japanese art form of taiko drumming and its importance in Japanese culture.

Odaiko New England combines traditional taiko rhythms with dynamic movement and rhythms from other musical traditions. Students learned about kata form (drumming technique) and the concept of kiai (vocalizing energy), and joined the performers on stage to play the taiko drums. Hadley second-grade students, who are studying Japan as part of their social studies curriculum, also participated in a special taiko workshop.

The Odaiko New England program was presented under the auspices of Young Audiences of Massachusetts, which has served as a link between teaching artists and the region's school children since 1962. YAMA is the largest single provider of arts outreach programs in Massachusetts' schools today, and provides more than 220,000 artist/student interactions through 1,500 performances, workshops and residencies in 430 schools each year.

The program was funded by the Hadley PTA and supported in part by a grant from the Swampscott Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

