

WOBURN ADVOCATE

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Drum together

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WOBURN, MA -

Students at the Reeves Elementary School were treated last Thursday to a drum performance by Odaiko New England, a Woburn-based Japanese taiko drumming group. "Taiko" is the Japanese word for drum but also refers to the art form of ensemble Japanese drumming. Odaiko New England performers seek to harness the power of the Japanese drum through performance and education to bring diverse communities together, promote positive images of Asian American culture, and celebrate the country's multicultural society. In ancient Japanese times, drumming was in the provenance of individuals revered and valued in the community: shamans, elders, and priests. These "keepers" of the rhythm were important members of the community, who were consulted upon for truth, healing, advice and, often, for a look into the future.



Mark H. Rooney of Winchester and Juni Kobayashi of Arlington perform for the group.