



## Drumming up culture

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METHUEN — City students made some noise while learning about Japanese culture at Nevins Memorial Library this week.

The library hosted a program about playing the taiko, a Japanese drum, Tuesday afternoon. The state Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant paid for the presentation, which was open to children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Students learned drumming techniques and the importance of the taiko in Japanese culture. The presenters were from Odaiko New England, a taiko ensemble founded in 1994. Taiko is the Japanese word for "drum." It began as a festival instrument, but has become it's own distinct art in recent decades.

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Photos



Donna Davis of Methuen and her granddaughter Kaila Richardson, 7, of Salem, N.H., enjoy the performance by Odaiko New England at Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen. Staff photo



Mark Rooney, artistic director for Odaiko New England introduces Hyotoko, a traditional Japanese comical character, played by Juni Kobayashi as she entertains with a uchiwadaiko, a Japanese fan drum. Staff photo