

May 10, 2012
For Immediate Release

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GRANT HELPS BRING JAPANESE TAIKO DRUMMING TO HANCOCK ELEMENTARY

Hancock Elementary School is pleased to announce that it has received a matching grant of \$2000 from the Arizona Commission on the Arts (including funding from the National Endowment for the Arts) for an all-school Artist in Residence Program that began on April 13, 2012. Extra-Curricular Tax-Credit donations from parents and community members also provided funding.

Eileen Morgan, our artist, is an expert in the music and art of Japan. Mrs. Morgan is working daily at Hancock Elementary School for four weeks to immerse our students in the culture of Japan and the music of Taiko Drumming.

Mrs. Morgan and her Taiko Drumming group, Fushicho Daiko, presented an opening interactive performance on April 13 for the entire school. She shared many aspects of the culture of Japan including the language, geography, customs, music, and instruments. She is teaching Hancock students about Japanese language, traditional music, songs, and instruments including Taiko drums. The students of Hancock are learning proper technique, cultural etiquette, and traditional rhythms as they play on authentic Taiko drums in every session. These exciting sessions are hands-on, interactive, and engaging for every class in every grade.

Mrs. Morgan and the "core" 3rd Grade will present a culminating Final Performance of Japanese Art and Music on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hancock Multipurpose Room. This performance will showcase our students by class as they share what they have learned about the Japanese culture and music throughout the residency. The final performance is open and free of charge for parents, teachers, community leaders, and the general public to attend.

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To Print and Television Media:

The media is encouraged to photograph and/or video the culminating Artist in Residence Program events at Hancock in the evening of May 17, 2012 for any follow-up articles that may be desired. Contact Curt Landon at Hancock Elementary to schedule times to view Mrs. Morgan's sessions in class during May 14-17 or if any other information is required. Thank you for your time!