

The John Thomas Dye School

September 7, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend TAIKOPROJECT for the Los Angeles Arts Education Directory. TAIKOPROJECT performed at the John Thomas Dye School during our International Day on March 23, 2010. International Day was a special all-day, school-wide event that brought the community together to celebrate each other's rich cultural backgrounds. For the International Day celebrations, we invited TAIKOPROJECT to perform during an assembly time.

TAIKOPROJECT's performance was professionally presented and of high quality. It was a great educational experience for both kids and teachers. Many people had never seen taiko drumming, so this opened their eyes to new aspects of Japanese culture and music. The study guide on TAIKOPROJECT's website was very useful. Teachers could share cultural and historical information about taiko drumming with their students before the performance.

TAIKOPROJECT put on an amazing and mesmerizing performance that was suitable for our K-6 students. Besides playing music, the group made an effort to teach our students about the names of their instruments and implements, and even taught us some Japanese words. Our students loved the presentation, but their favorite part was when TAIKOPROJECT asked for volunteer taiko drummers. Most students had their hands up and jumping out of their seats. In their reflections after International Day, many students raved about TAIKOPROJECT. One said, "My favorite part of International Day was when the performers played. That was my favorite part because now I'm interested in playing the taiko drum." Another wrote, "I liked seeing the drummers because they were so talented." The kids also loved seeing teachers volunteer to play the drums. Teachers were also very satisfied with TAIKOPROJECT's performance and many teachers jumped at the chance to play the drums as well.

TAIKOPROJECT added to the cultural richness of our school's International Day. Bryan Yamami, the group's artistic co-director, was easy to work with and prompt in responding to emails. I enthusiastically recommend TAIKOPROJECT and would eagerly invite them back to our school again.

Sincerely,



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