

# Students Experience the World in Music Residency

Article and photos by Lisa Rosen

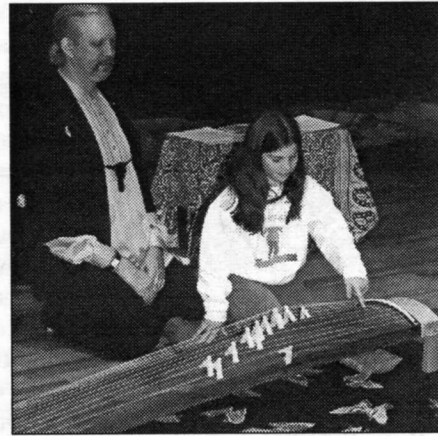
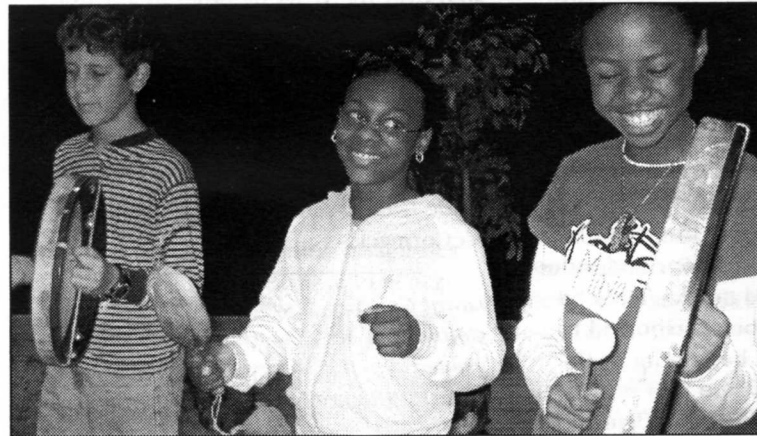
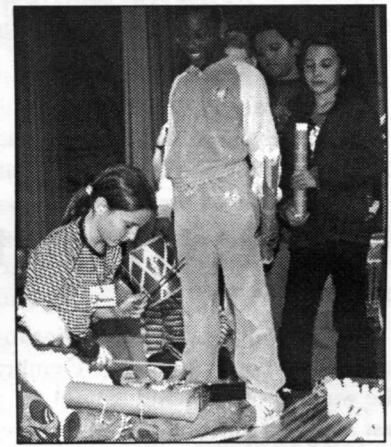
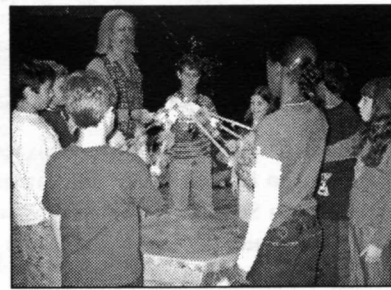
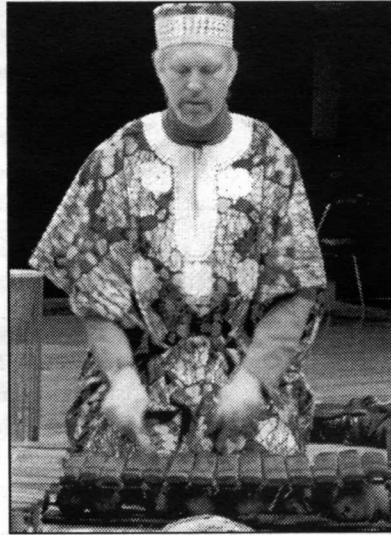
As Mrs. Maureen McCormack's fifth grade class sat shoeless and quiet around a semi-circle of Asian instruments, world musician and educator, Andy Wasserman, instructed them to "listen to the silence" that morning as well as to the instruments. A Chinese gong, first "warmed" with gentle taps for a rich tone, provided the opportunity to listen to musical vibration dissolve into silence.

Fourth grader Javier Teitelbaum chose that gong as his favorite instrument of the workshop. It sounded to him "like those ocean movies when there are waves crashing onto a boat." Mr. Wasserman shared how prevalent close listening and focus are in Asia. He encouraged the students to apply this concentration to their daily lives.

This, the second of six meetings of the PTA-funded World Music Residency

for Fourth and Fifth grades, gave the attentive students a three-dimensional glimpse of Asia. Using music as a universal communicator, Mr. Wasserman enlivens each session with native stories, instruments, rhythms and beliefs of cultures across the globe. In other sessions, he led students in musical travel to West Africa, Latin and South America and to the Native American Plains Indians in North America.

Titled "Music: The Voice of Unity-A



Andy Wasserman first demonstrates the proper playing techniques for all instruments. Students eagerly absorb his instruction and create their own music!

