



MAKING MUSIC WITH KIDS: TAHAYGHEN BEAT MAKERS

Students at Tahayghen Elementary explored new skills in music, dance and theatre last fall through a very successful program. "Making Music with Kids" brought community members Michael Koenig and Etchi Zaleski into the classrooms, where they introduced rhythm, vocal practice, movement, and instruments like records and percussion to the students, who don't usually receive any musical instruction.

Sixty students of all ages and skill levels were involved, along with seven teachers. As the students explored their new skills, the program evolved into a production of Stone Soup, with students singing, dancing and performing. The show was performed at Tahayghen Elementary and then again at the Howard Phillips

Community Hall, giving all community members a chance to see it.

The Tahayghen Parent Advisory Committee applied for a Gwaii Trust Arts Grant to help make the program possible. In their final report, the organizers said it had been highly successful.

"The principal goal of the program was to do something together, uniting all students from different backgrounds and experiences in creative musical expression," they wrote, adding

that students and parents are eager to continue more music programming in the school. A couple of new initiatives are in the works - stay tuned!

