

SCHOOL



Photo contributed

Jonathan Duda, a percussion specialist and member of the New York State Outdoor Education Association, left, presented "Let's Drum!" a participatory instructional percussion program for students in Mrs. Valerio and Mrs. Valenti's classes at Windham-Ashland-Jewett.

Percussion and life science

WJ students take part in a special program

WINDHAM — On Feb. 4 Jonathan Duda, a percussion specialist and member of the New York State Outdoor Education Association, presented "Let's Drum!" a participatory instructional percussion program for students. Students in Mrs. Valerio's 4th, 5th and 6th grade science classes along with Mrs. Valenti's Life Science and Biology students participated in hands-on lessons relating drums to such

scientific concepts as ecology, evolution and the study of the human body.

Mr. Duda used a variety of drums and other percussion instruments to have students simulate rain and thunderstorms. A full discussion of the water cycle followed. The evolution of percussion instruments was shared and compared with that of various species. Biology students were able to use various

drums to replicate the pulse which followed with a lesson on the circulatory system. Students in all of the lessons were involved in these motivational activities relating the arts to science while meeting the standards for each of the science classes. Mr. Duda's presentation was made possible by an Arts in Education grant written by Mrs. Valerio and Mrs. Valenti.

CWC awards educational grants