

Parent Involvement AT ITS BEST

by John Campin

Drumming With Dads

Need a way to get father figures involved? Start a Drumming With Dads program. We are in our third year of Drumming With Dads at Gomez Heritage. I hired a local artist, Michael Fitzsimmons, to lead our students and father figures in a very engaged and inspirational program at its conclusion.

At the first meeting, Michael plays some energetic pieces of music on his own instruments. Next, we hand out materials to make a basic drum, a 12" x 12" wooden square that students and fathers decorate. Then they take packing tape and wrap it around the square as tightly as they can. By using wooden dowels as drumsticks, the fathers and children can make wonderful deep sounds.



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPIN

Michael teaches different beats throughout the next three visits over a period of six months. To wrap up the program, all father figures and children who participated perform for the finale of the Spring Music Concert. What an amazing sight to see over 40 smiles and enjoyment shared between fathers and children by basically beating a drum — they really connect through Nature's heartbeat — the drum! Drumming With Dads is a must! It just takes a little extra effort to get something unique like this started. To begin, contact a local artist in your community who works well with people and is passionate about a gift they have and wants to share it with others.



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