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Contact: Honore Stockley
(315) 422-4488 ext. 10

'Roots' Branches Out With New Curriculum Supplements for Classroom Teachers

Roots of Rhythm uses drumming to help students learn in a wide range of school subject areas

Teachers know that children learn best when they are actively engaged with their subject matter. The more creative, hands-on, and fun the activity is, the more information they retain. That's why a growing number of teachers have begun incorporating "Roots of Rhythm" into their regular classroom instruction. Roots of Rhythm is multicultural, interdisciplinary curriculum for the upper elementary school classroom that uses drums and drumming from over a dozen world cultures to strengthen understanding in essential subjects such as social studies, art, music, science, language arts, and math. This unique program has recently expanded, and is now offering new supplemental materials that make it even more effective.

The two new Roots of Rhythm supplements include:

- **Classroom Connections**—Provides teachers with a wealth of suggestions on how to use Roots of Rhythm and world drumming to teach fundamental academic concepts and cultural diversity while meeting mandatory state education standards. The information is grouped into five main academic disciplines (math, science, social studies, language arts, and visual and performing arts) and follows a "spiral" learning path from kindergarten through 12th grade.
- **Recommended Reading**—A list of books and stories that support the Roots of Rhythm curriculum, organized by chapter/country/drum and reading level for primary, upper elementary, middle school, and high school class

The Classroom Connections supplements were created by Anne Fennell, a teacher at the K-8 Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts in Vista, California and the founder of the children's percussion ensemble, ZOOM! The Recommended Reading list was compiled by Jessica Baron, M.A., who founded and directs the popular Guitars In The Classroom program. She is a developmental specialist in the areas of learning styles, psychology, childhood creativity, and music.

The new supplements are currently available as free downloads from the homepage of the Roots of Rhythm website (www.rootsofrhythm.net). Additionally, the Roots of Rhythm website offers: Curriculum PDF documents; Audio Content (MP3s) for each lesson; Sample Syllabi; Fun Sheets activity worksheets; and Content Standards showing how Roots of Rhythm can be used to teach key ideas for core subjects.

Roots of Rhythm was developed by the Percussion Marketing Council (PMC) with support from NAMM, the International Music Products Association. The curriculum consists of 15 lessons, each of which introduces a world drum and explains its historical, cultural, and aesthetic context. The interactive, multicultural approach of Roots of Rhythm makes it an ideal way to teach and encourages teamwork, cultural understanding, problem solving, self-expression, and an appreciation for the arts.

For more information on the Roots of Rhythm program, to download curriculum materials, or to register in the interactive participant database, visit www.rootsofrhythm.net, or the PMC's website at www.playdrums.com.

About the PMC

Formed in 1995, the Percussion Marketing Council is the percussion industry's trade organization. The PMC is a not-for-profit with a mission to actively promote the many benefits of drumming to the general public. The organization's mission is to provide professional marketing and advertising campaigns, programs and activities that bring increased public awareness to drumming, thus increasing the number of people playing all types of drums.