



**Fresno Unified School District**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**#19-4.1.2**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Community Invited to Kirk Elementary's Drum Circle**

**What:** Kirk Elementary School students will play djembe drums in a drum circle after school, welcoming guests to join them.

**When:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
2:35-3:35 p.m.

**Where:** Kirk Elementary School (outdoor classroom area on the side of the cafeteria)  
2000 E. Belgravia Ave. (93706)

Kirk Elementary School students and community members will play the djembe drums in a drum circle and are inviting family members and others to join them with drums and percussion instruments. The playing of djembe drums has traditionally signified a gathering of people in peace. Drum circles have become a popular form of music therapy. The students will have the opportunity to play alongside two experienced drummers from the community.

Sixth grade teacher LaKeysha Mattis and kindergarten teacher LaTrenda Williams have organized the drum circle as a way to connect students and the community in a fun, peaceful activity. All students are welcome, but teachers have specifically invited students who may be struggling and might find a therapeutic outlet through the drumming. The school plans to have drum circles the first two Wednesdays of May and June as well.

“Music unifies us and makes us feel better. The drum circle at Kirk Elementary is another example of the creative ways our teachers are using the arts to support students, whether it is academically or socially/emotionally,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

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