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# The Beat of Pride

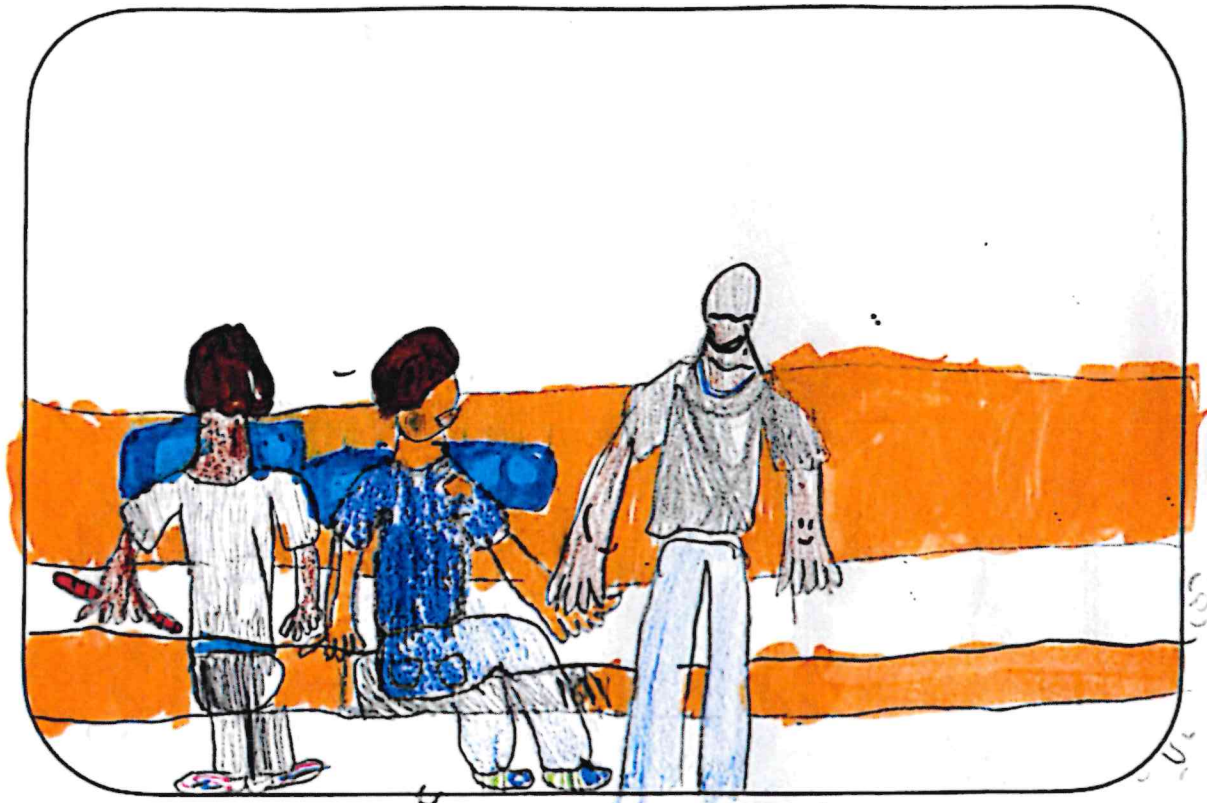
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**Based on a True Story**

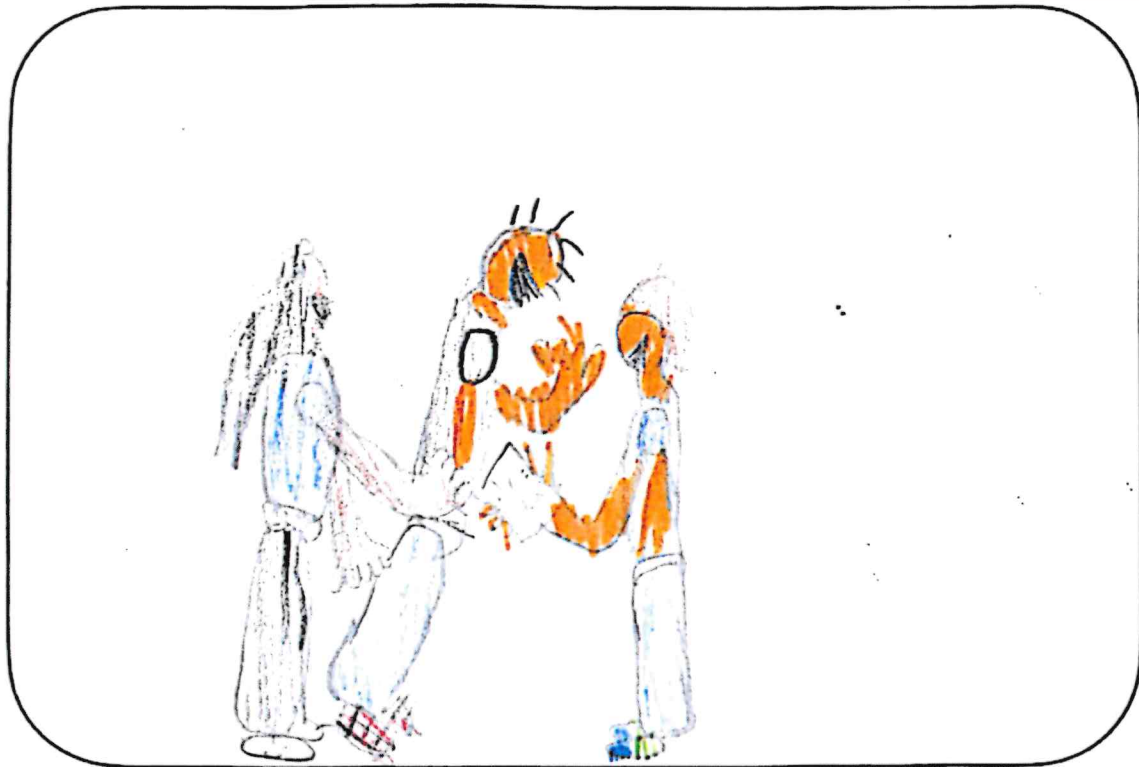


One day, while lining up for the buses, I heard my classmate Brandon talking about the drum group in our school. I told him I wanted to join. "Look for Mr. Derrick Jackson, the drum group teacher, and ask him if you can join," Brandon said.



On a busy morning at breakfast, I saw Mr. Jackson walking by. I saw people asking him if they can join. I felt excited and asked, "Can I join the drum group?"

He said, "Yes, we have room for more kids in Techno Oxate, the drum group. I just need to print a form for you."



When I got home, I told my parents I could join if they signed the the paper. They were very happy because they knew it was my dream and want me to be in it "We are so proud of you" mom and Dad said.



The day came when I finally got to hold the drumstick and hit the drum. The sound was like my heartbeat—boom, boom, boom. I felt nervous because I didn't know the DAKOTA words of the beat.



So, I listened carefully to the other kids. I stayed with them so I wouldn't feel scared. We practiced every Wednesday and Thursday after school. As time went on, the beat and the song went into my heart naturally, and I got used to it.



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From then on, I learned that being part  
of Techa Oyate means loving my  
Lakota culture and being proud of the  
Standing Rock Tribe. I must be proud  
of who I am and where I come from. The  
drum is like the heart of our tribe that  
brings our people together. Our culture makes  
us proud, and it shows that we are great  
Americans.