



KIDZ DRAMA CAMP performers entertained the audience on Thursday. Pictured (front row) left to right are: Dawn Rice, Caleb Todd, Eli Mills, Shannon Semler, Emma Johnson, Mia Morrow, Cheyenne Yardley, Hailey Robbins and Hadleigh Hilt.
Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

MONSTER KIDZ DRAMA CLASS DEEMED A SUCCESS

By Karen Krien
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Thursday marked the end of five days of Kidz Drama Camp for 43 kids and 26 adult volunteers. After 14 to 15 hours of practice, the production of i-Monster was presented to over 300 people. Held at the St. Francis high school auditorium, the kids, each uniquely dressed in a monster costume designed by the child and his/her parents, performed effortlessly.

It was a successful week, said Neala Carmichael, On Stage board member and one of the coordinators.

"Those kids just sang and danced their way into our hearts!" she said.

However, it would not have been possible if it were not for Jean Ann Confer, Teresa Porter, Talley Morrow, Leisha Hilt, Colleen Gardner and Sandy Smull, just to start with.

All of the volunteers helped in so many ways, starting with lines and words, to music and choreography. They helped back stage and served refreshments as well as entertaining and creating games.

We wanted the children to learn about all the aspects of present-

ing a production, Mrs. Carmichael said. They learned about advertising, from visiting The Herald office, to designing and making posters. They memorized lines and dance steps.

Each child had a speaking part. Even those with the smallest part learned how to project their voice and put emphasis into it, Mrs. Carmichael said.

Before the production ever began, 120 art students, under the direction of art teacher, Mary Beikman, designed a monster and there was a contest where the i-Monster logo was chosen. Jenna

Confer was the winner. Selecting the winning logo was tough, Mrs. Carmichael said.

Before the production, there were "money monsters" collecting donations as people arrived at the auditorium. They had been taught to say thank you to everyone who gave, no matter how big or small.

Those monsters passing out programs asked those attending if they needed help to their seats and thanked them for coming.

If we would have had more time to practice, Mrs. Carmichael said, we would have had ushers. Again,

it is another part of a great production.

There were mini monsters (grades second through fourth) and mega monsters (grades fifth through seventh). The "Monster Mash" with the dancing monsters was the last song and the production ended with the Monster Parade.

The writer of the play, Michelle Uyemura, Wray, was in the audience. Mrs. Carmichael said she was amazed at the number of volunteers and the wonderful performance of the children.

It was a busy week and the On

Stage board members have barely had time to breathe since the production. However, they are all thinking about the next play and/or musical.

There are ideas for children as well as adult productions. It takes time and money, Mrs. Carmichael said.

For more information on how to help promote more On-Stage productions, contact any of the board members including Mrs. Carmichael, Jenni Cravens, Colleen Gardner, Carol Ross, Dara Carmichael, Louanne Isernhagen and Leigh Ann Bandel.



MEGA MONSTERS were (top left) left to right: Cassie Cooks, Christina Stafford, Adam Krien, Colton Neitzel; (clockwise) Abby Husted looked at the posters in the hall; kids were always ready for snacks including Alex Queen, Quinton Cravens and Ryan Grover. Serving were Hanna Bracelin and Jill Bracelin; Shannon Semler, Eli Mills and Hadleigh Hilt knew their lines.