

Students Shine in Disney Frozen Jr.

When you bring a group of students together for any theater production, great moments and amazing memories live on forever.

Willsboro CSD's production of Disney Frozen Jr. created plenty of those moments and memories this year.

With a cast of nearly 30 members, the Willsboro Central School Drama Club and the Depot Theatre Academy put on wonderful shows for the community this January.

"Our kids this year were outstanding in every way," Co-Director Heather Walsh said. "We have such a small school, and everyone is involved in everything,

so this really was a team effort to make this happen and make sure schedules worked properly and there were no conflicts for our students involved with their other after-school activities."

PLENTY OF PREPARATION

The cast spent 3 months together preparing for the show, and they became a family along the way.

The cast ranged from third to 12th-graders, and everyone brought their own skillsets to the table.

"It was a lot of fun working with the younger kids because they looked up to us throughout the entire process leading up to the show," said WCS junior Laney Nolette, who starred as Elsa.

"We get to see each other in the hallways now, and it's not often that you have high-schoolers with such a

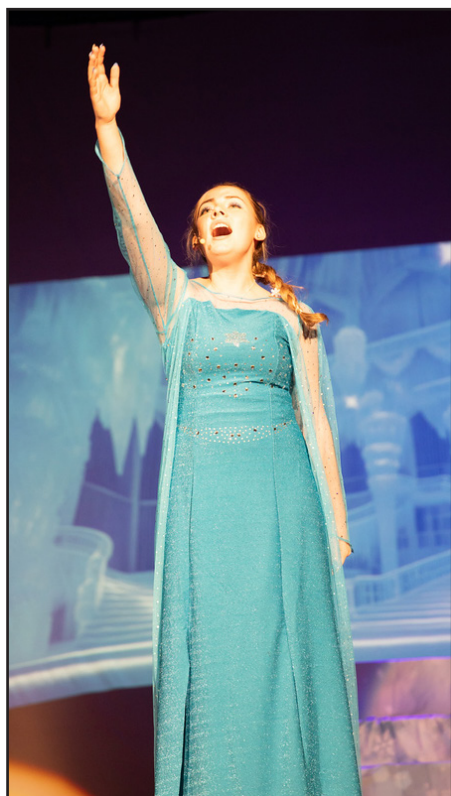


strong connection with those younger kids, and I think that is one of those little things that becomes such a big takeaway from the experience. It really brought us together as we worked together."

Play practice lasted for about 2 hours each day before longer practices started a couple weeks before the curtain was raised.

Co-Directors Walsh and Gigi Mason along with Co-Music Director Shannon Passno loved the group they worked with.

"It was a wonderful surprise to learn that many of the students we know and work with had beautiful voices," Passno said. "The talent hiding in such a small school was a treat. They overcame many challenges and fears throughout the rehearsal process. These students and their talents truly shined, and we hope that the success



PBIS Creates Student Support System

Willsboro CSD is committed to a school-wide approach that helps students learn positive behaviors and create a safe and supportive learning environment for all.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS) has become a key element of the every-day routines of our school.

For those wondering what PBIS looks like in action, think of it as a team.

From students to teachers as well as families and our community, everyone works together to create a positive environment where everyone can learn and feel happy.

Here are some things to know about PBIS at WCS.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Students will earn positive reinforcement for doing what's expected of them throughout the day. Teachers and staff have Willsboro PRIDE tickets that will be distributed to students when they are seen doing what's expected of them in various locations.

Students will be able to redeem their tickets in the newly formed 'School Store'.

Items at the store can be 'purchased' using their PRIDE tickets and will range in price depending upon the item.

WHAT DOES PBIS DO?

PBIS helps teach students behavior expectations. It also helps students develop social skills and positive relations with others. In turn, PBIS helps to improve school culture, reduce discipline referrals, and reduce suspensions. PBIS helps to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes.

TIERED PBIS FRAMEWORK

Just as students learn academically at their own pace, students also learn behaviorally and emotionally on their own time. Some students will require re-teachings throughout the year to support their understanding of expectations across various locations within the school.

PBIS is set up to allow those re-teachings when needed. If a student is struggling with the expectations provided, more small group guidance and practice will be given as well as increased prompts and reminders to go along with increased school-family communication.

PBIS COMBINED WITH POSITIVITY PROJECT (P2)

In past newsletters, you may remember having read about our Positivity Project. PBIS connects directly to our ongoing work with the Positivity Project. Through P2, students are learning the 24 character strengths behind the positive psychology approach to strong relationship building. Coupled with PBIS, P2 will now be stronger and help to reinforce the day-to-day learnings that students are having with our P2 lessons.

Capital Corner Update

Each year, included in the district budget, are funds for capital outlay projects. These miniature capital projects are designed to allow the district to address needs as they arise while receiving 52% of the cost back in state aid the following year.



2023-24 CAPITAL OUTLAY

The 2023-2024 capital outlay project was completed earlier this school year.

This project focused on replacing the district's phone and public address system, which was outdated and unreliable. Now, each room within the school building has a new phone and working PA speaker, which ensures that important messages can be heard by all students and staff. These upgrades also added several features that will increase safety during emergency situations.

2024-25 CAPITAL OUTLAY

The 2024-2025 capital outlay project, scheduled to be completed this spring, includes the refinishing of the gym floor and the replacement of the gym wall mats. This work will increase student safety within this space while providing necessary maintenance to extend the life of the gym floor wood.

FUTURE CAPITAL PROJECT

In the next year, the district will be providing additional information on a future capital project to address larger maintenance needs. In 2025, the district, with its architects, will conduct a building conditions survey to identify our most pressing needs to be addressed in the future capital project. More information on the planning stages for this larger project will be shared over the next year.

of the production will lead to more student interest and involvement.”

AN AMAZING CAST

Willsboro senior Danielle Reithel starred as Anna and brought her passion for theater to the limelight.

Reithel is finishing off her senior year on a high note, attending CV-TEC’s New Visions Program and wrapping up additional classes at WCS. She also played for the girls varsity basketball team and managed her schedule to the best of her abilities.

“Because it was a challenge, that made it all feel that much more satisfying coming together,” Reithel said. “It was nice to have everything come full circle to us not knowing what we were doing in the beginning to everything being perfect at the end.”

Reithel mentioned how the cast had an amazing support system leading up to the shows that carried them through the days of practice and preparation.

Nolette agreed the encouragement received throughout the process truly reflected the positive atmosphere WCS prides itself on.

“It was a new experience because I am not the traditional theater kid,” Nolette said. “I have never done anything like this, but I am so glad I did. Our entire cast just had a bunch of fun together.”

As for getting one of the lead roles after going in to audition because her friends told her it would be fun, Nolette added the role she received was a tad surprising.

“Yes, that was a bit of a shocker. But hey, why not have fun with the opportunity, right?”

STUDENTS TAKE CENTERSTAGE

As Co-Director, Walsh had the opportunity to see different elements of the students’ personalities come to life.

“Seeing the amount of talent from the younger kiddos and the talent we had in the high school was great,” Walsh said. “They were able to get out of their comfort zones. We had some pretty intense choreography, and the kids were able to express themselves in different ways.”

Many students owned multiple roles, so that meant there was plenty of fun taking place behind stage with costume changes and much more.

Walsh was sewing dresses and other outfits during the shows to make sure things fit just right, and even with that bit of chaos, it was well worth it.

“One of the coolest things for me was some of the behind-the-scenes stuff that happens because it brings a new level of appreciation for the group you are working with,” Reithel said. “I know I was laughing at times, and you need that.”

Disney Frozen Jr.

Cast

Young Anna - Ava Leibeck
Young Elsa - Thea Decker
King Agnarr - Michael Carson
Queen Iduna - Raegan Morgan
Pabbie - Callie Freeman
Bulda - Emma Jacques
Middle Anna - Layla Jacques
Middle Elsa - Emma Jacques
Bishop - Callie Freeman
Anna - Danielle Reithel
Elsa - Laney Nolette
Kristoff - Otis Zahorchak
Sven - Ava Leibeck
Hans - Felix Haskins
Stewardess - Olivya Ball
Duchess of Weselton - Maci Gagnier
Olaf - Lillian Baker
Oaken - Raegan Morgan

Production

Co-Director - Gigi Mason
Co-Director - Heather Walsh
Co-Music Director - Gigi Mason
Co-Music Director - Shannon Passno
Choreographer - Gigi Mason
Set Designer - Heather Walsh
Costume Designer - Heather Walsh
Light Designer/Light Board Operator #1 - Rachel Budin
Light Board Operator #2 - Ed Mason
Spotlight #1 - Annelise Lewis
Spotlight #2 - Jayce Morgan
Co-Stage Manager - Grace Hamilton
Co-Stage Manager - Lilly Santillo
Props Master - Lilly Ashline
Sound Designer - Shannon Passno
Hair/Make-up - Nelly Collazo, Hannah Neilly, Kye Perry

Ensemble

Castle Staff

Lillian Baker, Olivya Ball, Zoraya Collazo, Raegan Morgan, Sarabeth Provost

Townspeople

Kennedy Carman, Anna Conley, Jahzell Crawford, Abigail Kaleita, Adeline Pelkey

Snow Chorus

Maci Gagnier, Anna Conley, Thea Decker, Abigail Kaleita, Serenity Lopez, Sonia Lopez, Adeline Pelkey

Hidden Folk

Zoraya Collazo, Jahzell Crawford, Callie Freeman, Emma Jacques

Summer Chorus

Maci Gagnier, Olivya Ball, Kennedy Carman, Zoraya Collazo, Jahzell Crawford, Thea Decker, Abigail Kaleita

Oaken Family

Zoraya Collazo, Jahzell Crawford, Callie Freeman, Emma Jacques, Layla Jacques, Gigi Mason



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND READY FOR MORE

Shows took place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 10-12.

"I can't say enough about the community support and support we had from our family and friends," Nolette said.

Audiences kept growing with each show, and Sunday's nearly sold out.

The Willsboro community truly showed its connected spirit through its support.

"I was blown away by the support we received," Walsh said. "We had people come to all the shows who did not even have anyone directly connected to them in the shows. That shows the special community we have in this area."

That support leaves the WCS Drama Club motivated for a new production next year.

While nothing has been decided on yet, there are plenty of cast members excited about the opportunities that await.

"A lot of us were really excited throughout the entire production," Nolette said. "I will definitely be back next year. I can't wait."

