



Fourth-graders Andrea Flores who plays a crab, and Katie Haapala, spongefish, have a little fun before their play Tide Pool Condo begins Thursday afternoon at Grandview Elementary.

'Peace People' spread word about bullying

BY LAURA COLVIN
STAFF WRITER

The Peace People at Grandview Elementary rounded out another successful year with a June 5 performance of "Tide Pool Condos," a musical production about the importance of preserving the environment.

About 50 fourth- and fifth-graders serve as Grandview's Peace People, a program in which students promote good citizenship and environmental responsibility while also serving as the school's peer mediators.

"The Peace People are really a dynamic force at Grandview," said Principal Ellen Davis. "They really help the children help each other."

The program, in place at the school for a number of years, has recently grown to better serve the needs of the students.

"Just like any other school we saw that conflicts arose during non-academic times like recess and lunch," said school social worker Abby Kushner. "The students were not equipped to handle it alone."

With special training each fall, however, the Peace People are able to help guide their peers to a peaceful solution to most conflicts. In addition to peer mediation, the Peace People also put out a special newspaper four times a year, organize and maintain a recycling program and educate other students about bullying.

"Most kids are not comfortable seeing other kids bullied," said Kushner. "But most won't say anything. We want to get them to say 'Hey, we don't treat people like that here.'"

And while they're busy teaching other students some of life's important lessons, the Peace People are learning lessons about giving back to their school community and setting a good example for others.

And then there are the fun events, like Thursday's musical. "The kids worked really hard



Fifth-graders Kassi Wilson plays a shark and Elizabeth Bevak a Real Estate Developer in the Grandview Elementary play, "Tide Pool Condos."

on this," said Mary Hayter, whose son Bobby, a fifth-grader, played the role of Poseidon in the musical. "They had a lot of rehearsals, both during and after school. I think they did a wonderful job."

Bobby has been involved with the Peace People for two years, she said, and it's been a positive experience for him and the other students.

"It's great to see the kids working to help other kids with conflict," said "It teaches all the kids to solve problems without violence, in a way that wouldn't be possible if the adults got involved."

Other students were happy to be involved with the program as well.

"I like to help solve problems," said Kaitlyn Nippa, a fifth grade Peace Person from Farmington Hills. "I ask questions like what happened, how it happened and what they can do to solve it."

And how did the students feel about Thursday's performance?

"I thought it would be a disaster, and people would forget their lines when they saw (the audience)," said Caylyn Shurtell, a fourth-grade Peace Person from Farmington Hills. "But it turned out really good."



Grandview Elementary's fourth- and fifth-grade students perform their play, "Tide Pool Condos," for classmates, teachers and parents on Thursday afternoon.

CAMPUS PIPELINE

Walsh Master's
Dana (Shelton) Smith, a 1983 graduate of Farmington H.S., recently completed her requirements for a master's of science degree in finance from Walsh College. A 1988 B.S. finance graduate of Michigan State University, Smith is the controller for Ford Component Sales, LLC in Livonia. She is married to Roger Smith and has two sons, Zachary and Nicholas and resides in Canton. Smith is the daughter of Terry and Brenda Shelton of Farmington Hills.

New Doctor
Timothy Shelton, 1990 graduate of Farmington H.S., completed his M.D. degree from St. Mary's School of Medicine in March. He holds a B.S. in chemistry from the University of South Florida in Tampa and a B.S. in biology from Western State College in Gunnison, Colo.

Shelton completed his clinical rotations at Chabert

Hospital in Houma, La., and will begin residency in July at Maryland General Medical Center in Baltimore, Md. His second through fourth year of residency will be at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. He has chosen a specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Shelton is the son of Terry and Brenda Shelton of Farmington Hills.

Findlay Grad
Teresa Wojnarowski of Farmington Hills graduated with a B.S. degree in equestrian studies from the University of Findlay in Ohio on May 3.

State Vet
Samuel Latra has been awarded the doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Latra plans on practicing small-animal veterinary medicine while pursuing his interest in surgery. He is the son of Thomas and

Barbara Latra of Farmington.

Scottish Study
Amy Prater-Mann of Farmington Hills is one of several Central Michigan University students who will study abroad this fall.

Prater-Mann, a junior majoring in science and elementary education, will travel to Edinburgh, Scotland, where she will study art. A graduate of Harrison High School, she is the daughter of Dale Mann and Janet Prater.

Washenaw Grad
Melissa Barilla and Jon Frontier of Farmington Hills and Chad Kotrba of Farmington graduated from Washenaw Community College in May.

Washenaw Honor
Farmington/Farmington Hills residents Na Re Seo, Annika Weinmann, Charlotte Barton, Chad Kotrba and Leah Yagerman earned honors from Washenaw Community College.

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