

Oz from page 32

part of the new production.


When asked why it was decided to keep *The Wizard of Oz* as the play rather than starting with something new and fresh, Katie Dow replied, "I wanted to see the production of *The Wizard of Oz* happen because of all the work that went into the set design, building, and painting from 2019 and 2020. Mike Wiley built all the sets, and we transitioned to having a projection screen with animated backgrounds. There was a lot of initial investment in the first production, so the show had to go on!"

With new kids ready and putting in time and effort, the show would go on! The main roles were finally cast. Dorothy (Bria Trembley), The Scarecrow (Ryleigh Perry), The Lion (Ben Simard), The Tinman (Amelia Bryant), Glenda the Good Witch (Evian Powers), and finally the Wicked Witch of the West (Briley Mudgett) led the many other cast members to a fantastic performance.

The entire cast and crew put in a lot of time and effort to put the show on as

quickly as possible, hoping that the virus wouldn't end up putting things on hold once again. With the stage direction of Katie Dow, music direction of Alex Ager, and choreography direction by Kyle Tremblay, the play debuted on December 17 with a weekend of performances that were enjoyed by all.

"It was so exciting to see the students perform in front of a live audience," added Ms. Dow. "They had three shows, and the cast and backstage crew just got better each time. There were many hours of rehearsals, but it really paid off. The play would not have been possible without all the hard work of staff members and parents."

Music Director Alex Ager reflected after the show by saying, "It was incredible to finally perform the show. Being able to work in person with this year's cast and crew was a wonderful experience. I got to see the vocal talents of our students grow and shine throughout the whole rehearsal and performing process. The students brought so much energy and life to their roles and it showed in their performances." 

Ocean from page 30

ship *Clotilda*, the recently discovered, last known slave ship in United States' history. *Clotilda* made an illegal run to Benin, West Africa in 1860 and returned that summer with 110 enslaved people.

The long-lost wreck of the *Clotilda* – now physical proof of the crime – was recently discovered at the bottom of the Mobile River. The 23 students will also have the opportunity to visit Selma and Montgomery as friends and shipmates and to consider deeply the history of our nation.

Proctor Academy Ocean Classroom Director Brooks Bicknell '77 reflects on this evolution of the Ocean Classroom program. "It is very exciting that Proctor is expanding its winter off-campus experiential learning opportunities by offering a program to our students and those from very different backgrounds. This mixes adventure, authentic challenge, hardship, and skill building while being immersed in the study of our watery planet.

"I am also very excited the program will have a strong historical focus that delves into not only general maritime history, but the exploration of the economic and historical roots of slavery in America."


Proctor Head of School Brian Thomas adds, "For each of the young people

involved in this program, they are about to embark on a journey of a lifetime where they not only have the opportunity to study maritime history and literature and learn to sail a tall ship, but to learn to live alongside others.

"They must be a team and act like a team, which means everyone has an important role to play, and must play that role excellently. They must each climb out of their bunks in the morning and begin to understand the complexity of not only their crew on board, but the complexity of the world in which we live.

"I am excited to see the growth of each of the students involved as this program gets underway."

Sailing Ships Maine's Executive Director Alex Agnew notes, "Schooner *Harvey Gamage* has educated thousands over its history and we are delighted to be her current custodians. The ship is in excellent condition thanks to loving owners and hard working crews.

"And this partnership with Proctor, MET, and Big Picture Learning would make our co-founder Bert Rogers and Proctor's Ocean Classroom Co-Founder Dave Pilla smile to see the tradition they started continue and evolve with now two semester programs operating to offer at sea experiential learning programming." 

AE/MS Students Eagerly Embrace In-School Enrichment Clubs

Students have choice of clubs or recess

Kasey Schoch, AE/MS teacher


One of the things that was greatly missed during the COVID shutdown of 2020, as well as during the hybrid schooling model that was in place last year, were extracurricular activities and social events.

Knowing this, and wanting to make up for so much lost time, the specialist team at AE/MS (Alex Ager, Alex Bramley, Matt Orlando, Courtney Minnehan, Stephanie Peters, and Lisa Lane) have been offering middle school students enrichment clubs during their lunch/recess break. "This is giving students something to look forward to besides recess, and gives us the opportunity to teach in smaller class sizes," said Courtney Minnehan, AE/MS art teacher and enrichment club organizer.

A wide variety of clubs were offered

for students to choose from, including open art studio, guitar, Dungeons and Dragons, volleyball, poetry club, baking, sewing, and more. Club opportunities change every six weeks. Each club meets once a week for six weeks, so students can participate in five clubs in a given week or choose the traditional recess option.

After the first session wrapped up shortly before Thanksgiving, new choices were offered and students that had never signed up before were suddenly joining the clubs, which shows that the excitement and enthusiasm their classmates have had for the program is rubbing off.

It would seem that this group of teachers has struck gold with the students this year and has truly inspired students to get more involved in school activities. That can only lead to a more positive, stronger community at AE/MS. 

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