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Bridget Schieder writes anti-bullying play to earn Girl Scout Silver Award

Bridget Schieder (center), A Council Rock High School South freshman and member of Troop 2060, recently had her play performed at local camps. Pictured with Bridget are, from left, Rebecca Pimble, Erin Banks, Bridget, Grace Clark and Emma Diamond. See story on page 4.

Photo by June Portnoy

Local News & Happenings

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Bridget Schieder writes anti-bullying play to earn Girl Scout Silver Award

by June Portnoy

While attending Churchville Elementary School, Bridget Schieder, now 14, was very shy.

"I remember feeling like an outcast back then because I was so quiet, unable to speak up for myself," describes Bridget, today a freshman at Council Rock High School South.

It was this feeling of being on the outside looking in that inspired Bridget to write "Daisy Goes to Dog School," the story of a cat forced to go to dog school and then being bullied for being different.

Bridget wrote the story while in second grade.

Over the years, Bridget "came out of her shell," transforming into an extroverted young teenager.

She has taken acting lessons and was even cast as Flounder in Holland Middle School's production of "The Little Mermaid."

Last year, Bridget, a Girl Scout in Troop 2060, which meets at Addisville Reformed Church in Richboro, began pondering a project she could complete to earn her Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadet can attain.

That's when she remembered the story she had written back in elementary school.

"I decided I wanted to expand on that story and then convert it into a play," described Bridget. "I wanted this play to teach young audiences to treat others the way they wanted to be treated and to show them how hurtful bullying could be. The overall theme is that everyone should be treated with the same respect even if they look different."

It took Bridget almost a year to rewrite her story into a play, which consisted of a cast of eight characters and eight scenes.

Next, she sent out flyers, inviting students to come to her

house to audition for her play.

Most of the students who showed up were friends of Bridget and troop members.

Once students auditioned and Bridget assigned each person a role, it was time to practice.

Bridget held 90-minute rehearsals every Monday practically all summer at the Free Library of Northampton Township in Richboro.

She admitted that it was a bit challenging trying to get all the "actresses" together at the same time because they all had such conflicting schedules.

In addition, to the cast members, two additional girls helped with the stage crew.

According to Bridget's mother, Bridget developed great leadership skills directing these girls when they sometimes wanted to text or talk to each other instead of practice for the play.

Her mother added that,

"Bridget did a great job communicating with the cast and crew members because it's easy for someone her age to tell her peers what to do."

While rehearsals were taking place, Bridget recruited other students to paint the setting and create the props.

Each girl made her own cat or dog costume, including the tail, and Bridget ordered the ears on-line.

The culmination of Bridget's project took place on August 14 when Bridget's cast performed the play to young elementary school students at Phoenix Day Camp in Southampton and to preschoolers at Bright Eye Academy in Churchville.

The children sat captivated watching the performers dressed in costumes acting out Bridget's play.

The play featured Daisy, the cat who was excluded by the dogs at Dog School because she looked different than them.

They refused to let her join their retrieving game.

When Daisy made friends with a dog named Abigail, the other dogs tried to get them into an argument to keep them apart. Abigail called a meeting with all the dogs and Daisy to talk about the problem.

As a result of talking, they resolved the argument between

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17th Annual Village Renaissance Faire

coming Sept. 17th-18th

The 17th Annual Village Renaissance Faire comes to the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds, 576 Penns Park Road, Newtown, on Saturday, September 17th and Sunday, September 18th, 11:00am to 6:00pm both days.

The Faire creates an interactive world where attendees of all ages take an entertaining, educational, and engaging stroll through the arts and history.

Faire-goers encounter jousting knights, dangling aerialists, and flying birds of prey. Shows and activities cover a range of ages and interests and surround the faireways, on the stages and all around.

Performers bring literature to life throughout the day with shows and fairground encounters based on a new storyline each year.

Danger shows feature a working trebuchet, living chess,

archery matches, and fire breathers.

For the music lover, there are dancers, musicians, and madrigals at every turn. While the wee ones are preoccupied with free children's crafts, a kids kingdom, Gnome Depot, and children's shows, like juggling, story-telling and Punch & Judy, there are plenty of fine artisans featuring clothing, jewelry, pottery, and giftware to browse.

Visiting historians are treated to a large living history square and working artisans featuring blacksmithing, glassworking, and woodworking.

Admission is \$10 for adults; \$5 for students; under five-years-old FREE.

ALL proceeds benefit the Village Library of Wrightstown.

For more information visit www.villagefaire.org, e-mail fairedirector@hotmail.com, or call 267-304-8060.

Bridget

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Daisy and Abigail and decided to include Daisy on their team.

Following the play, Bridget conducted a question and answer session with the children to ensure they understood the key messages of the play.

"I hope these children learned that if they are ever bullied, they should not ignore the problem," said Bridget. "Instead, the victim should talk to the bully about how he/she feels, and if it's a really big problem, the victim should talk to an adult," explained Bridget.

Bridget believed that her audiences, especially the older kids, grasped her play's overall anti-bullying message.

Bridget provided a copy of her play to Phoenix Day Camp to use as an acting activity for its campers in the future.

Bridget invites any teachers interested in obtaining a copy of her anti-bullying play in which their classes can participate to contact her at goog3210@comcast.net.

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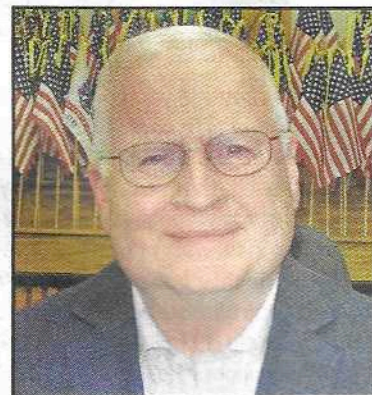
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Call Erica McNamee 215-702-3405

Frank O'Donnell

appointed Northampton Supervisor

Frank O'Donnell was appointed Northampton Township Supervisor on August 2nd, to fill the vacancy of Supervisor George Komelasky who passed away on July 3rd. The Supervisors voted 4-0 on the appointment. The Board interviewed several applicants who had applied for the position during the prior two weeks and believed Frank was the best one suited for the position. The term will expire at the end of 2017 and there will be a municipal election in



Frank O'Donnell

2017 to fill the remaining years on that seat which would have expired December 2021.

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