



People and programs impacting our QCSD community

'How the West Was *Really* Won'



Quakertown Elementary School students generate performances of perfection

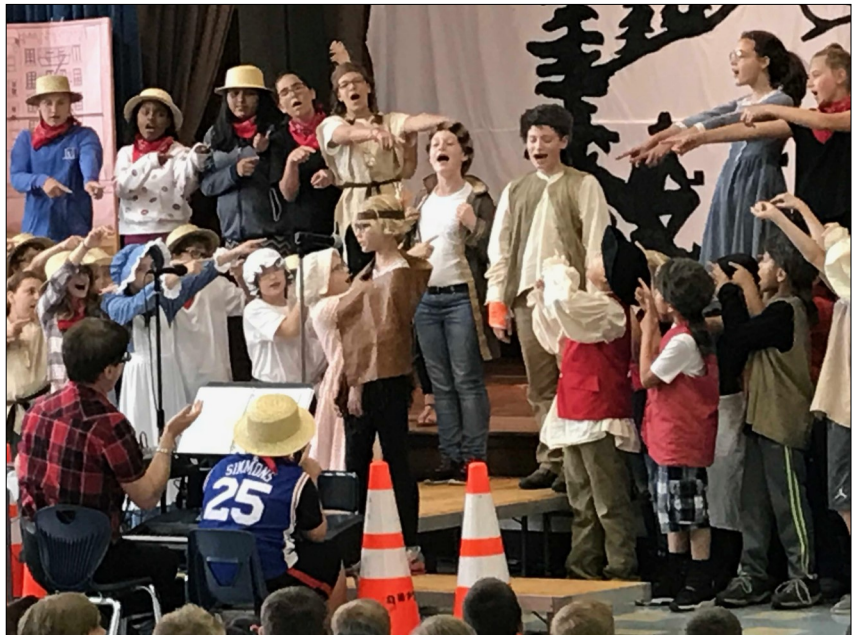


By Gary Weckselblatt

Quakertown Elementary School's fourth- and fifth-grade production of *How the West Was Really Won* was a major hit Friday with the audience of school officials and kindergartners through third graders who viewed the outstanding performance.

The musical, performed for the school Friday afternoon and for parents in the evening, encompassed events such as the Westward Movement, the Gold Rush, The Cherokee Trail of Tears, The American Civil War, the Underground Railroad, the Transconti-

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mental Railroad, Chisholm Trail Cattle Drives, and women who changed the country.

"I was blown away by how well the students did," said Stephen Wysocki, the lead teacher on the project. "The greatest thing is that they will never forget it!"

"They knew their lines and every word to the songs. They were incredibly in-character and full of enthusiasm. Most of all, I could see the pride on the faces of our students. They knew they were doing something extraordinary and it was obvious throughout the production."

Several teachers helped with the play. Christa Held was in charge of square dancing, while Lori Pierce, Sarah Derby and Neysa Maxwell helped coach the students.

Wysocki said the training and subsequent tremendous performance helped

to build self-confidence in each student. In an email to the teacher-team that helped with the production, Wysocki stated, "How cool is it that our kids are now so excited every time they see

the age of invention, the wild west shows, rodeos, and on and on it goes!" Principal Michael Zackon praised the efforts of the students and teachers.

"Through the teacher leadership of Mr. Wysocki, and other QE staff, all fourth- and fifth-grade students participated in this outstanding musical performance," he said. "The planning and preparation for this started months ago by Mr. Wysocki, and students were trained by actors of "River Union Stage" for a valuable Artist-In-Residence program.

"The students then practiced many days in preparation; which culminated in an outstanding performance. We are incredibly proud of the student effort and hard work."

Wysocki and Held were awarded a \$500 mini-grant from the Quakertown Community Education Foundation to help put on the performance.

Gary Weckselblatt, QCSD Director of Communications, writes about the people and the programs that impact QCSD. He can be reached at [215-529-2028](tel:215-529-2028) or



anything about the history of the trans-continental railroad, the gold rush, the Lewis and Clark expeditions, the Civil War, the Oregon Trail, the life of the pioneers, the plight of the American Natives who were forced off their lands,