



ABCDE
ASSOCIATION OF BC DRAMA EDUCATORS



BCTF

**In
Focus**



**Spring
2020**

*Cami Bull (Highland Secondary) has the same feels about her Audrey prop as we all do during the Covid-19 Pandemic!
(Teacher, Lisa Williams, HSS)*

*Edited by:
Ryan Grenier*

Notes from the President

Spring 2020

I find myself thinking of our membership an awful lot these days! I wonder how everyone else is managing, with life and with school, and what creative new things you've come up with lately? What challenges are you facing in your school, your communities, your life? Is the technology too much for you as well? Are you suffering withdrawal from being near people? I am a hugger and I would love to reach out and hug everyone!

I have always considered my practice as a drama teacher to be meaningful, engaging and impactful. It's why I love what I do... and I'm sure you can all relate! This brings me great joy and peace as an educator, to KNOW that I made a difference. These days all of these elements in my practice are challenged. I sometimes feel as though we are just filling time, students are checking out and engagement that was already low is waning, and I can't reach or support the vulnerable ones I feel need me the most. I share that as I feel there is comfort in knowing we are all in this boat together, even though we feel so apart. I think that's true whether it's going really well for us or whether we are struggling.

It has been wonderful to see the ABCDE membership band together these past couple of months. The conversation and support happening on the ABCDE on Facebook page has been amazing and really warms my heart. We have navigated a very impactful life experience together. Your dedicated ABCDE executive have come together over these past few weeks, meeting almost every week to brainstorm ways to support. The google drive that was shared and contributed to online was such a generous out pouring of support taken on by the whole membership. If you haven't checked it out yet, here is the link. Please feel free to add, to borrow and to adapt as you see fit.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xCJ7XciBuZ0CgScfOd-0XJcNOzoOqHSe?usp=sharing>

A shout out to Lana, Gord, Laurie, Ryan, Brian, Zelda, Coco, Colin, and to Jenn (who joined us once again in the initiation of the google drive).

In other good news, the ABCDE is still able to provide two scholarships to students, of ABCDE members, who are pursuing either performance or technical theatre. The deadline is coming up at the end of May so do communicate this to your students asap. The link below will take you to the application form.

► http://www.bcdramateachers.com/abcde-student-scholarship.html?fbclid=IwAR0pFoH14PN7n_SztA0itSPLHCD6K15cncTuEFDvMFBCXLad803reEmsrzs

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I would also like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate our 2020 Youthwright winners.

This year's festival was adjudicated by Mark Leiren-Young. The three outstanding plays were:

- ▶ "Our Kind of Normal" by Emily Campbell of Hazelton Secondary (sponsor teacher - Barb Janze)
- ▶ "Privilege" by Katie Chris of Hayes Secondary (sponsor teacher - Alison O'Toole), and
- ▶ "Learning Lessons" by Dez Johnson of North Surrey Secondary (sponsor teacher - Craig Wrotniak)

As an organization we are all missing the opportunity to celebrate these young people and their teachers at our amazing festivals sponsored by ABCDE at this time of year. So much effort and planning had already been put into the NTS Provincial Drama Festival by Gord Hamilton, Sharon Conrad and their team as well as the Goodwill Shakespeare Festival by Lana O'Brien and her team. We are all grateful for their efforts year after year and hope that we can all celebrate together next spring.

Fall conference is also still uncertain at this time. Please stay tuned to the ABCDE through our social media for news on this event. We are hopeful that we can meet in the Okanagan this fall and boy what a celebration that will be!!

Your fall classes may also be uncertain at this time. We are hearing some rumblings of this from different people in our organization. Please keep these conversations alive so that we can support each other and continue to fight for what we know is the best education out there... theatre education!!

In the meantime I'm headed out to the school field to dance with my musical theatre class, 6 feet apart, to "Raise You Up" from Kinky Boots. My heart is full of joy. Please take care of yourselves and do what brings you joy!! Sending sincerest best wishes to everyone, and of course virtual hugs!

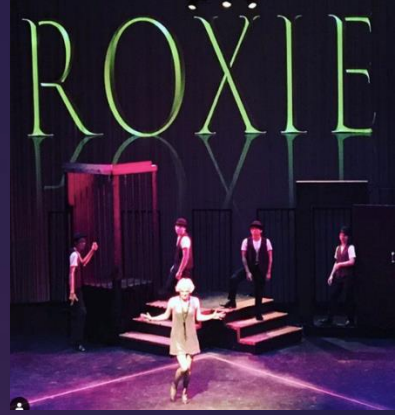
Heather Lee
ABCDE President



Directed by Coco Roberge

"Chicago" at River's Edge Theatre (Riverside Secondary)

Directed by Coco Roberge



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100 years ago when reporter Maureen Dallas Watkins wrote the play upon which "Chicago" the musical is based, she was commenting astutely on the subjectivity of truth and consequence, the cult of celebrity, and the role of the press in the court of public opinion...Welcome to our stylish, sparkly and darkly ironic show that was so much more than jazz hands.

It was delicious to bring this classic to life with this group of 56, double cast, plus our crew. Bob Fosse's "Chicago" opened on Broadway starring Gwen Verdon and Chita Rivera on my birth date in 1975, and honestly, the songs and movement have been threaded through my life. As director, choreographer and designer, along with a vocal director new to our school (Laine Spicer), we poured ourselves into the production and faced all kinds of hurdles; both our dimmer system and sound system were down within one week of opening. But, on Feb. 20, 2020 every cast member shone fiercely and their performances evolved through the run.

We all feel so very fortunate that we got to lean in and live that show hard for those weeks. 5, 6, 7, 8...and all that JAZZ!

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CHICAGO

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

FEB. 20, 21, 22 + FEB. 26, 27, 28
RIVERSIDE SECONDARY'S
RIVER'S EDGE THEATRE



Radium Girls by DW Gregory at Smithers Secondary School

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Smithers Secondary School was fortunate enough to squeeze in a final performance of Radium Girls on March 13th, before the Pandemic restrictions came into place. It was a very strange time as the night before opening the news that gatherings of more than 250 were being restricted. We quickly called our ticket vendor on March 12th and pulled 50 of our 300 tickets. We made the decision to go ahead with the performance however, a decision that would have looked much different even one day later on March 14th.

In the end we sold 250 tickets but had an audience of about 200. The 50 people who decided not to attend that night did not ask for their money back. We are fortunate as a rural community to know that no one got sick that night. It was a particularly special and impactful way to end our semester together. <3

If you aren't familiar with this piece I encourage you to look into it. We had an amazing discussion together as a cast and crew about all the connections that can be made with the world ...

Heather Lee

#grateful #bytheskinofourteeth #makingconnections #lovemytheatrecompany





Radium Girls Directed by Heather Lytle performed by Smithers Secondary on March 13/2020

Lesson Share:

Care of Gordon Hamilton, (Brookwood SS)

- ▶ **Notes from the editor:**
- ▶ I took this lesson to distance learning where my students created their TP masks/puppets and performed a live puppet show on Zoom for the class!
- ▶ **Tips and Tricks:**
- ▶ Have the students attach a pencil, chopstick, utensil, etc. to hold onto the puppet
- ▶ I instructed my students to ensure that they used simple devices of storytelling (One setting, develop characters/relationships, Problem/Crisis, Solution and Rear View Mirror if possible)
- ▶ Encourage students to create a body for the puppet – some of mine made 2d costumes, some sewed clothing, some used toy doll/"Barbie" clothes- be creative and have fun! Some had theme music, build mini sets/stages etc. – this can go as far as you want it to!
- ▶ See the ABCDE Google Drive for a clean copy to access:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xCJ7XciBuZ0CgScfOd-0XJcNOzoOqHSe?usp=sharing>
- ▶ Thanks Gord!

Ceramics 10, 11, 12 Toilet Paper Role Mask

Objective:

To create a series of 5 masks using toilet paper roles as a sculptural material.

Materials:

Toilet Paper roles, q-tips or brush, pencil/pen, colour medium (ie. eyeshadow, pencil crayon, paint, felt), a stick or wire, tape.

Time Frame: maximum 3 weeks

Process: Think, plan, and your design. You can use any of the examples I have created or just go for it and let the magic and morphing happen. Follow the steps below as a guideline:

1. All that you need is an empty toilet paper roll.
2. Dampen the toilet paper roll, use a cloth or sponge if available or just use your fingers
3. Make a crease at the top
4. Pinch the bottom together and press down. This will be the nose
5. Pinch the top of the nose
6. Push in the sides of the nose at the bottom and flatten an area the size of your finger on each side
7. Pinch the nose to make nostril on each side
8. Reinforce the crease at the top to make the eyes
9. Pull down another layer at the top
10. Squeeze the end of the nostril at both sides and press at the bottom for lips
11. These are only suggestions you can continue folding and squeezing to come up with more details
12. Dry with a hair dryer or let air dry.
13. Once dry you can begin your painting to emphasize your features.
14. Attach stick or wire with tape on back of mask.
15. Photograph each mask and email to me.

Useful links: <https://askepticaldesigners.com/2012/10/17/arts-crafts-120/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaDvOhufDn8>

Have fun!



Evaluation:

Craftsmanship	/ 20
Creativity	/ 15
Effort	/ 15
Total	/ 50 Marks

Brookwood Musical Theatre proudly presents



ROALD DAHL'S Matilda

BOOK
DENNIS KELLY

THE MUSICAL

MUSIC & LYRICS
TIM MINCHIN

Artistic Direction
by Sheri Eyre & Gordon Hamilton

Musical Direction
by Derrick Turi

Choreography by
Pauline Dynowski

Vocal Direction by
Emily Hamel

February 5-8/12-15, 2020

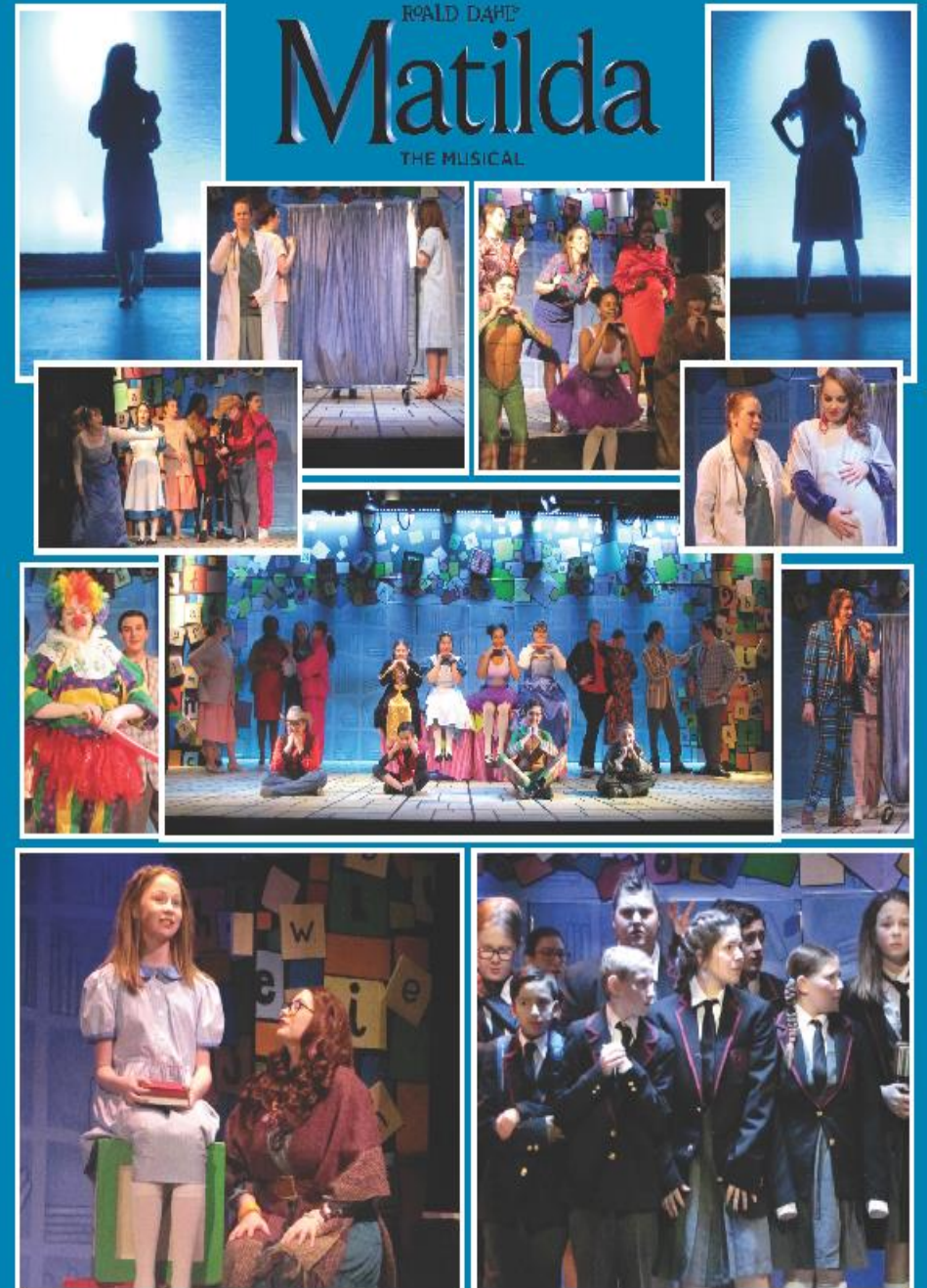
Performance Time 7:00 P.M. Admission \$17 Reserved Seating

• For Tickets Visit:

<https://bssmatilda.brownpapertickets.com>

MATILDA was first commissioned and produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company and premiered at The Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, England on 9 November 2010. It transferred to the Cambridge Theatre in the West End of London on 25 October 2011 and received its US premiere at the Shubert Theatre, Broadway, USA on 4 March 2013. ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

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NATIONAL
THEATRE
SCHOOL
OF CANADA

DramaFest 2020 ☹️



We are deeply saddened by the cancellation of our beloved BC Festivals. We thank all the organizers, volunteers, teachers and students who make these events so spectacular and look forward to 2021!



GoodWill Shakespeare Festival 2020 ☹️

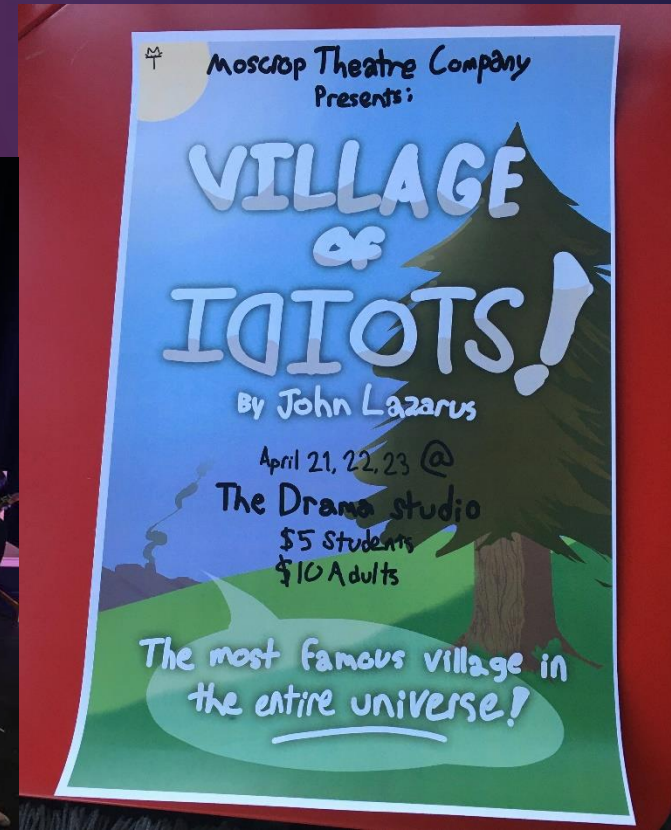
Our condolences to all the students (*grads in particular*)
and Directors who lost their show this spring...
Some of the Many Shows that Weren't:

Rehearsal Pics of Heritage Woods Secondary's
Bring It On!
Directed by Shanda Walters



Rehearsal pic and show poster of Moscrop's
Village of Idiots

Directed by Joan MacLean and Assistant Directed by Talyna Szymanski and Ari Guzhel



Some of the Many Shows that Weren't (continued):

Carihi's Newsies

Directed by Christine Cederberg Knight



Johnston Heights Theatre Company Proudly Presents

THE

OUTSIDERS

Adapted by Christopher Sergel from the book by S.E. Hinton



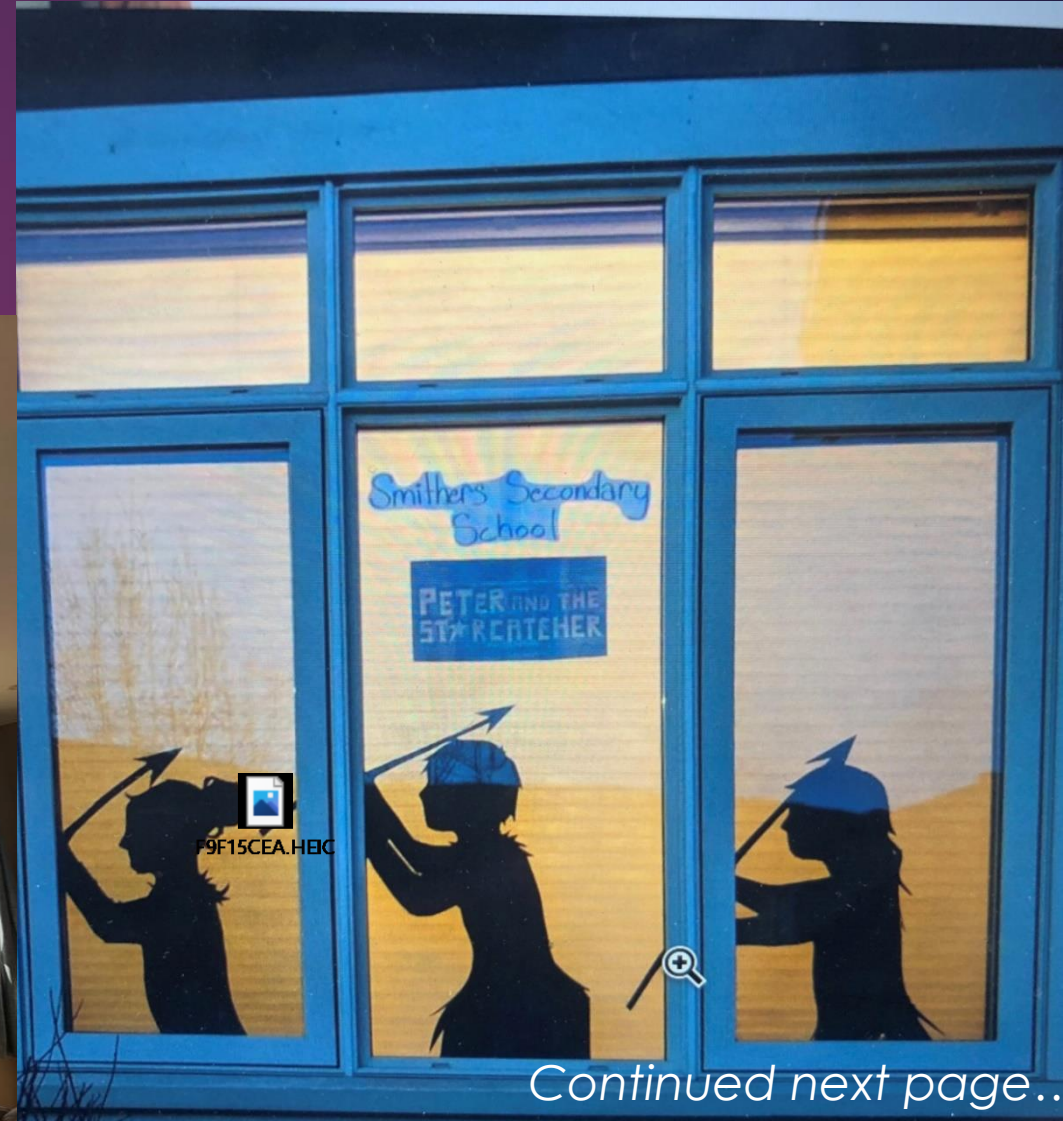
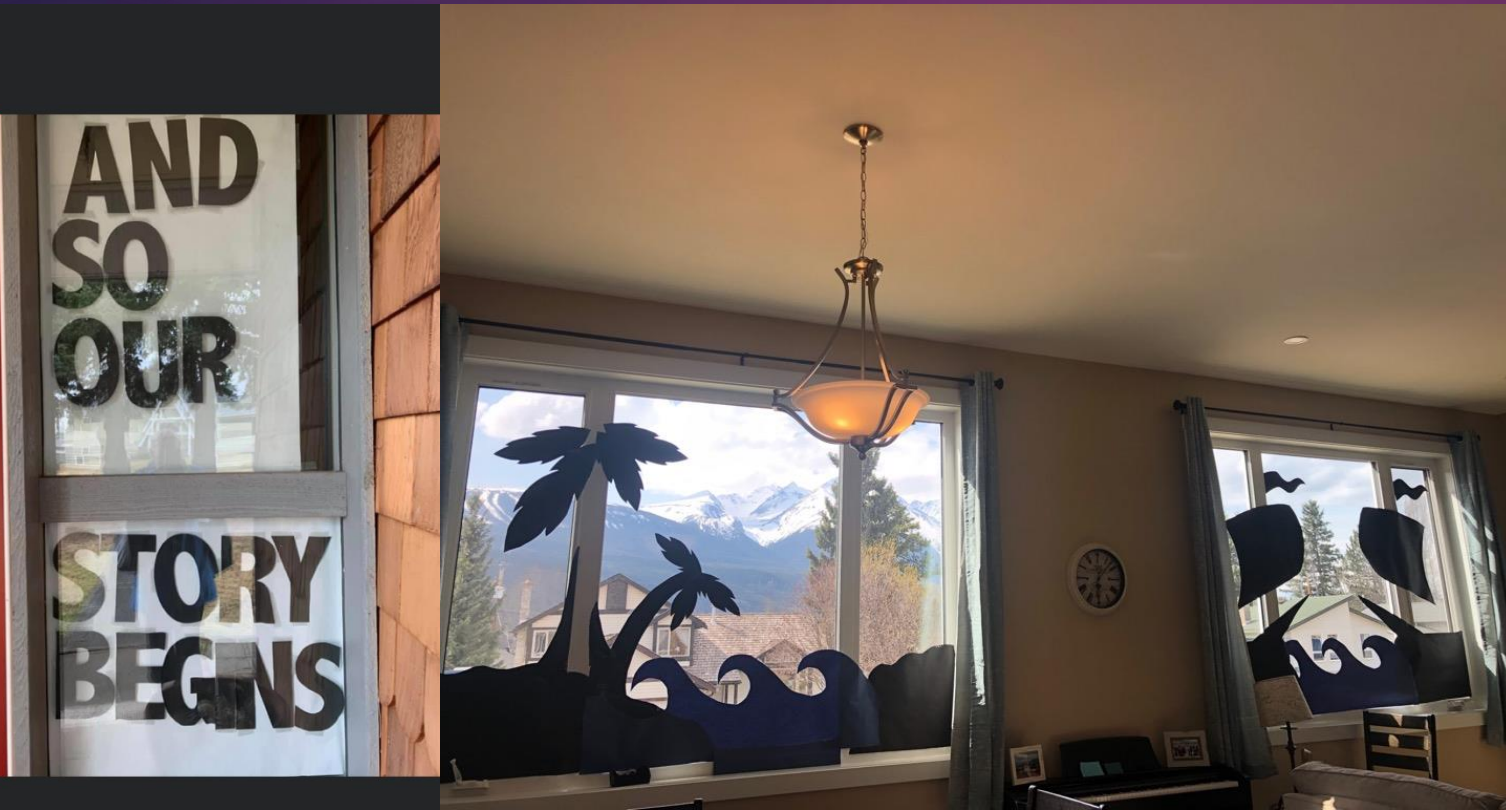
Johnston Heights SS's *The Outsiders*
adapted by Christopher Sergel from the book by
S.E. Hinton, directed by Beth Scozzafava.

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

In order to celebrate *"The show that wasn't"*, Heather Lee arranged a drive by silhouette puppet show of *"Peter and the Starcatcher"* for her Theatre Company and the entirety of Smithers.

What an inspiring way to celebrate this production and share it with the whole school and community!

Bravo Heather!



Continued next page..



Peter and the Starcatcher Puppet Show Continued...



Stay Strong, ABCDE Members!

In the words of the Bard:

It is not in the stars to hold our
destiny but in ourselves.

William Shakespeare



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or handles:*

