

NEWS RELEASE

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Drama Kings and Queens at CHES



Pictured Above: Cape Hatteras Elementary School (CHES) students, and members of the Little Skeeter Recycled Theater, Bryan Waugaman, Tucker Paddock, Kiera Bowman, and Audrey Waugaman pose for a post show photo-op. The Dare Education Foundation recently awarded a 21st Century Skills Grant in the amount of \$1500.00 to CHES 4th Grade Teacher Molly Jo Barnes. The grant helped with start-up funds for a low budget “recycled” theater program for Cape Hatteras Elementary School students. The project is called Little Skeeter Recycled Theater.

Participating students are drama kings and queens in the respect that they are fully responsible for all aspects of the theater's production. Students develop the stories and write the scripts, create costumes and sets from recycled materials, set the stage, manage the light and sound boards, then pull the curtain and perform.

“Developing plots and writing scripts is teaching the students creative writing, while using recycled materials is helping them practice fiscal and social responsibility,” said CHES 4th Grade Teacher Molly Jo Barnes. “Collaboration is also a key 21st Century real world skill the students are practicing,” Barnes continued. “Simply put, theaters work only when the troupe members work effectively together. I am proud to say that Little Skeeter Recycled Theater students work together beautifully and that is a strong predictor of the skills they will take with them into adulthood and the workplace.”

CHES students recently wrapped up their season with two performances on Friday May 7, featuring skits that took a twist on popular fairy tales like *Little Red Riding Hood*. For next school year, plans are to have the students research and write plays that retell Hatteras Island stories in the context of North Carolina history. In the meantime, stay tuned for more exiting tales to emerge from CHES Little Skeeter Recycled Theater.

For more information about the Dare Education Foundation and the 21st Century Skills Grant Program, visit dareeducationfoundation.org or call 255-5545.

The Dare Education Foundation (DEF) is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that works in partnership with Dare County Schools to promote excellence in education. DEF believes that the best education possible for every student provides a solid foundation for a strong and vibrant quality of life in Dare County. In order to achieve this, DEF partners with the community and raises funds from private donations large and small, grants, sponsorships, and special events. DEF's collaborative efforts enrich education for all students and encourage community involvement in education.