

Names

Wednesday, April 9, 2014



The Media Theatre will transport young audiences to prehistoric times when it presents the new stage adaptation of “Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark” weekends through May as part of the award-winning Children’s Series. The family-friendly musical for ages 4 and up follows the adventures of a brother and sister who discover a magical tree house that whisks them away to the land of dinosaurs.

In “Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark”, two siblings, Jack and Annie, happen upon a mysterious tree house that is filled with books covering a wide range of subjects. As they are looking at a book about dinosaurs, Jack idly wishes they could go there – and, magically, the siblings are transported to a strange new world populated with dinosaurs they’ve only read about.

Lexi Gwynn, a West Chester resident, has been seen recently in Walnut Street Theatre’s “Elf, The Musical” as part of the children’s ensemble. She played the role of Marta von Trapp in “The Sound of Music” at Forge Theatre, where she also performed in a 50th Anniversary Gala. She’s a featured performer in The Media Theatre’s Annual 2014 Gala as well.

Lexi has been a figure skater and vocalist in the Skating Club of Wilmington’s annual ice show. She joined the New School at The Media Theatre in September 2013. Under the direction of Jesse Cline, the intensive conservatory-style music theatre education program includes classes in acting, singing, and dancing.

Malvern Prep Head of School Christian Talbot was honored by Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., for inspiring the type of learning he is working to implement at Malvern: student-centered learning, in which teachers act as facilitators and co-learners in the pursuit of knowledge.

Talbot received the college’s Gideon Hawley Teacher Recognition Award, named for the 1809 graduate of Union who is distinguished historically for his leadership in education and concern for teacher development in New York State during the 19th century. The award was a highlight of the school’s Founder’s Day Celebration, which commemorated the 219th anniversary of the college’s charter.

Talbot was nominated by former student Jakub Kaczmarzyk, a sophomore at Union whom Talbot taught at Regis High School in New York City. Before joining Malvern Prep, Talbot taught English and art history at Regis, his alma mater, as well as serving as chair of the English department and president of the Faculty Council.

In his nomination, Kaczmarzyk praised Talbot for his work with Regis' Brain/Mind/Soul Senior Seminar – a rigorous, interdisciplinary neuroscience course that Talbot helped develop.

“For the first time in my life, I was driven to think, connect and act. And it was all thanks to Mr. Talbot,” Kaczmarzyk said. “He showed me how to love to learn, and he prepared me to be a leader at Union College ... because of Mr. Talbot’s influence on me, I had the audacity to start something new at our college.”

Kaczmarzyk also noted Talbot’s conviction to break down the barriers between student and teacher; instead to think of each other as co-learners, a key principle of student-centered learning.

Talbot is leading a movement to strengthen Malvern Prep’s commitment to student-centered learning, which emphasizes active, rather than passive learning; an emphasis on deep understanding; student accountability as well as autonomy; and mutual respect within the teacher-student relationship. At the core of this philosophy — and the underlying reason why Union honored Talbot — is, as Talbot wrote in a recent blog post, “a teacher who cares about every single one of his students as if they are his own children.”

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