

The Water Pirates of Neverland
A Boatload of Trouble!
Every Little Bit Helps!

Rave reviews from the media



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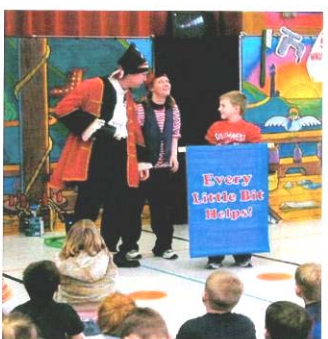
Southwest students learn the importance of clean water

By Christina Knott
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Students at Southwest Elementary School learned about the importance of clean water during a live theater show, "A Boatload of Trouble," on Friday.

"How many of you drink water?" Gilbert Cole, operations superintendent for Missouri American Water, asked as he introduced the show. Most of the kindergarten through second-grade students raised their hands.

When Cole asked, "How many of you take a bath?" a few more hands went up.



Southwest Elementary student Sam Wade assists "Swabbie," center, tell Capt. Doorknob - Capt. Hook's cousin - how to save water during a presentation Friday at the school's gym. (Stephen Brooks/News Tribune photo)

The National Theatre for Children performed at Southwest and at North Elementary School Friday. Missouri American Water sponsored the performance.



Actors Katie Melby, left, and Laura Riley get an assist from Millstadt first-grader Pete Weck. Weck is asking questions about water conservation.

Actors offer students a new message: Water should be treasured like gold

By Amber Ellis
Newswriter

MILLSTADT — Captain Doorknob searched high and low for a secret treasure Monday afternoon, enlisting the help of a pirate, a dolphin and students at Millstadt Consolidated School.

"It's worth more than silver, gold or a pig princess sensation," the galleon skipper, jokingly told the captain.

Water, the students discovered, was the hidden treasure that the captain had all along, never realizing its value.

A two-woman team told the group the importance of water conservation in their skit, "The Water Pirates of Neverland Ocean 3-1/2."

The actors, part of the Minnesota-based National Theatre for Children, used repetition to interact with the students.

The program is part of Illinois American Water Co.'s annual youth education program. The company contracted with the troupe to put on the skit, which will be presented at 10 metro-east schools this week.

The children learned four

Water performances

The traveling act, which also went to Columbia's Immaculate Conception School Monday, will perform next at these locations:

- Cathedral Grade School in Belleville and Mitchell Grade School in Granite City, today.
- St. Ambrose Grade School in Coffey and St. Elizabeth School in Granite City, Wednesday.
- Westhaven Elementary and Signal Hill Grade School in Madisonville, Thursday.
- Roosevelt Grade School and Blessed Sacrament School in Belleville, Friday.

key concepts during the theatrical comedy: How water can be used, why it's important, ways to prevent water pollution and tips to conserve the freshwater supply.

Rivers, lakes and reservoirs are among the most-used water sources. Most people take water, which is used to cook, clean and drink, for granted, the pair said.

First-grader Pete Weck told classmates that saving water takes little thought. Sometimes, it's a matter of turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, taking shorter showers, or his parents repairing a leaky sink.

"If we want to save water, it's easy," said Weck, who held large cardboard cutouts of a large toothbrush and dripping faucet. "It's important because if we don't have enough (water), we could die."

While the 8-year-old was on stage, students raised their hands, hoping for a chance to help Captain Doorknob find the treasure and remind their classmates that everyone needs a half a gallon of water each day to survive.

"It's so much fun (students) sometimes forget they're learning," said Laura Riley, a 25-year-old Virginia native who had several parts in the play. "It's only our first day on tour, but the kids seem excited already."

Contact reporter Amber Ellis at ellis@tdn.com or 239-2555.

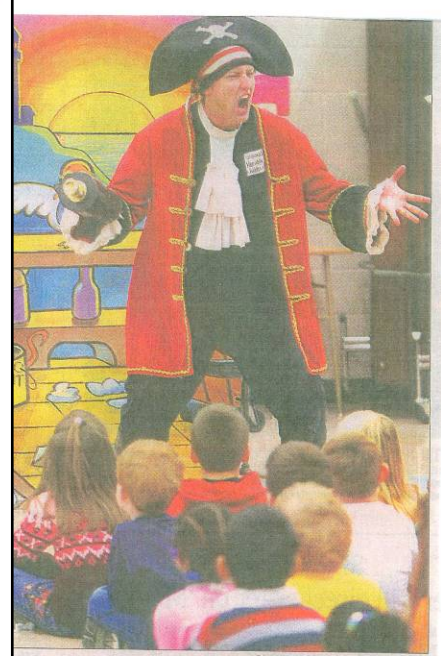


Kids get the message on polluting the water

Millstadt Consolidated School students learned about the importance of clean water during a live theater show, "A Boatload of Trouble," on Friday.

Actors get the message on conservation across

The National Theatre for Children performed at Southwest and at North Elementary School Friday. Missouri American Water sponsored the performance.



Perry Thrun from The National Theatre for Children plays Captain Doorknob during an assembly about water conservation at Riverdale Heights Elementary School in Bettendorf.

'Pirates' tell kids to conserve water

National Theatre delivers education message in Q-C

By Mary Louise Speer
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Why is saving water so important? Just ask the Water Pirates of Neverland. The pirates are part of Iowa American Water's youth education program, stopping at 10 Bettendorf and Davenport schools through Feb. 25 on a 2 1/2-month tour.

The main characters are new crew member Swabbie, played by Margaret Noble, and Captain Doorknob, played by Perry Thrun. Both are actors with The National Theatre for Children, a Minnesota-based national touring company.

They appeared Monday at



Children at Riverdale Heights Elementary School react to a play presented at the school Monday to teach about water resources and water conservation. The play put on by The National Theatre for Children is sponsored by Iowa American Water.

NATIONAL THEATRE FOR CHILDREN
The National Theatre for Children works with companies to develop educational programs and public messages that highlight issues from electrical safety and nutrition to water safety and financial responsibility.

