

PRESS RELEASE

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
4675 MISSOURI FLAT ROAD
PLACERVILLE CA 95667

CONTACT
PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL
530.677-2281
Teacher Jennifer Schmelzer, ext. 2318
or
Principal Christopher Moore, ext. 2216

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2010

Ponderosa High School's Little Theatre now Bigger than Life

For many years the banner hanging outside of the Ponderosa Little Theatre said, "Little Theatre, Big Shows." Despite the multi-purpose room floor, stackable chairs that needed to be set out for every performance, virtually no wing space, and only a small hallway to serve as make-shift dressing rooms, the drama students at Ponderosa High School always saw beyond the hodge-podge exterior of their theatre and did the best with what they had.

Despite being incredibly under-equipped, the Ponderosa Little Theatre still put on bigger than life shows. Last year's *Seussical* sold out to packed houses of families, staff members, and young children. Even though there were no dressing rooms, the show still had a huge cast of 45 students, filling every single tiny piece of stage there was. Despite the fact that there was no wing space, they still managed to find a place for the 100+ costumes to hang. Even though there were only 48 light channels, they crammed 70 or so lighting instruments up on the electrics. When the crowds outnumbered the amount of chairs, they borrowed chairs from the library.

The problems that once faced the drama department in putting on a show like *Seussical* are now firmly in the past with the renovation of Ponderosa's Little Theatre, thanks to Measure Q. That multi-purpose room floor is now gone, and in its place are new risers, permanent seating, a technical area, carpeting, and refinished walls. Wing space has been expanded with the demolition of the former costume closet and furniture storage area that was backstage. Now, students can finally do their make-up and change into their costumes properly in the new green room, complete with lighted mirrors, bathrooms, dressing areas, and costume racks. In addition, the theatre also has storage now in the form of a scene shop, a loft area for costumes, and an office.

According to Ponderosa Drama Teacher Jennifer Schmelzer, "The most rewarding thing about the entire experience of construction and settling into the new theatre is the fact that now Ponderosa Drama has a facility that finally matches the quality of our performances and our students." Principal Chris Moore adds that, "Ponderosa Drama has a long and celebrated history of students going on to do great things in the world of theatre. From two of our students being accepted into NYU's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts last year, to its sold out crowds for the fall plays and spring musical, to our students going on to produce, direct, edit, and premier their own full-length feature films, Ponderosa Drama students are going on to accomplish great things." So perhaps, the new motto for the theatre could now say, "Incredible Theatre, Incredible Students."