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Drama Kids program launched by former teacher

Brenda Alexander helps children explore creative side, gain self-confidence

By Linda Doherty

Nowadays people say they don't like drama and want their kids to stay as far away from it as possible. But there is such a thing as good drama – for instance there is now a new program in Cabarrus County for children: Drama Kids.

Brenda Alexander, a former W.R. Odell Elementary teacher, first got involved in the program after she left Odell to have knee surgery.

"Over Christmas break 2011, I packed up my classroom. I cried and cried because I would miss my students so much and would miss my wonderful friends at Odell School," she said. "I had originally planned to have knee-replacement surgery over the summer, but my knee just wouldn't last until June. As sad as I was to retire from teaching, I knew that I would find another opportunity to work with children. I wanted something new, different and fun! Something that didn't involve grading papers or giving EOG tests."

Alexander said that during her recovery from knee surgery, she would search through various job opening looking for something unique – and came across an ad from a company called Drama Kids.

"The more I read about it, the more I liked what I read," she said. "It turned out that it was more than a job; it was a franchise that was looking to expand into the Charlotte area."

During her 32-year teaching career, Alexander has been named Odell's Teacher of the Year twice and was awarded the Cabarrus County Schools Impact on Education Award,. But the one accomplishment that is very near and dear to her heart is the Odell talent show.

"I have directed and coordinated the talent show for nine years. I loved providing an opportunity for children to perform on a stage and share their talents," she said. "This experience enabled children to explore their creative side and gain self-confidence."

Turns out Drama Kids has a very successful franchise in High Point.

"As Drama Kids expanded in North Carolina, we have the privilege of providing Drama Kids to Cabarrus County and north Mecklenburg County," Alexander said. "After returning from the weeklong training session, I was ready to hit the ground running. I loved the positive things this program could provide children."

Alexander is looking for schools in Cabarrus County and north Mecklenburg that would like to

Learn more:

For information, visit www.dramakids.com/nc3. You may also contact Brenda Alexander at 704-721-0932 or email dramakidsnc3@gmail.com. Upcoming Drama Kids Summer Camps: (Ruckus House-Moss Creek location in Concord) 9-11:30 a.m. July 23-27; (Odell Elementary School, Concord) 9 a.m.-noon July 30-Aug. 2. Each program cost: \$75; all students receive a free camp T-shirt.

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have Drama Kids become a part of their school's after-school enrichment program.

"Educators will be pleased to know that Drama Kids meets the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts in the Listening and Speaking Strand," Alexander said.

Linda Doherty is a freelance writer for Cabarrus News. Have a story idea for Linda? Email her at northwestcabarrus@gmail.com.

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