

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shawna Rhebergen

(714) 524-1350 ext. 1

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Heritage Oak Presents Its 11th Annual Theatre Production Beauty and the Beast, Jr.

YORBA LINDA--Heritage Oak's Theatre Program has influenced the lives of thousands of children who have an interest in the Arts. Over the past eleven years, Heritage Oak has performed musicals, such as The Wiz, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Peter Pan, and Oliver Twist. This year, under the direction of Carmen Coindreau, Beauty and the Beast, Jr. will be presented. Tryouts for Beauty and the Beast, Jr. were held in the beginning of January, where 85 students were chosen for their roles in each main cast. The group was split into two casts, Blue and Green, and started practicing right away. On top of main cast members, each classroom (1st-5th grade) is required, as part of the school's curriculum, to perform a song in the production. This makes a total of 190 students involved with the musical.

"Theatre is a great way for students to grow in the Arts," says Director of Performing Arts Carmen Coindreau. "Their creativity continues to shine and they have all developed so much since we started."

"It's amazing how fast the children learn each dance!" says Choreographer Marianne Vrahnos. "They have the ability to pick up on choreography beyond a basic level and they get so excited about each dance."

Beauty and the Beast, Jr. will be performed on Servite High School's stage in four performances. On Thursday, March 25, the Blue Cast will perform at 7 p.m. On Friday, March 26, the Green Cast will perform at 7 p.m. And on Saturday, March 27, the Green Cast will perform at noon, followed by the Blue Cast at 7 p.m. These performances are free to attend for the general public. This performance is something you won't want to miss!

"It has been a real learning experience to be cast as Belle," says 8th grader Thea C. "I've learned how to take direction, work with all kinds of people, and improve my acting abilities. It's a rollercoaster of experiences!"

"It's been so fun working with the students," says "Beast" and staff member Ryan Leimkuhler. "They love when I do my 'Beast voice' and I think it really motivates them to get into their roles."

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 “Blue Ribbon” award. The “Blue Ribbon”, our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.