

MAKING WAVES AT DCS



Beacon Young Five Students Bring Stories to Life

*"Two shoes go CLOMP, CLOMP
 One pair of pants goes WIGGLE, WIGGLE
 One shirt goes SHAKE, SHAKE
 Two gloves go CLAP, CLAP
 One hat goes NOD, NOD.
 And one very scary pumpkin head goes BOO, BOO!"*

Young Five students in Betsy Bluhm's class spend a lot of time working on the skill of retelling. On November 1st, Dexter's youngest learners told the story, "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything" by Linda Williams, to their parents and grandparents by acting out words using instruments and props.

This performance is a culmination of many different literacy ideas and skills the students have been practicing since school began in September. Students rotated and practiced all the different parts, then had the choice of their final part for the performance. "I let them take the lead and facilitate as needed," Bluhm says. "They were a bit shy once everyone was there, but they did a great job!"



Young Fives also learn about what and why people write, making the discovery that people write invitations to parties. During a class interactive writing session, the students created an irresistible invitation to send to their families and the other Young Five classes.

Using a document camera to display the book's pages on the screen, the reader told the story while his classmates used triangles, drums, wooden clappers, rhythm sticks and their voices to express the 'scary' sounds heard by the old lady.

Just as the old lady in the story is resolved to not be afraid, these young students showed their courage in front of a live audience with an enjoyable, heartwarming performance.

