



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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For Immediate Release

School of Bright Promise Celebrates “A Charlie Brown Christmas”

STEUBENVILLE-Snoopy, Woodstock and the gang appeared at the School of Bright Promise as students performed “A Charlie Brown Christmas” on Dec. 17.

More than 100 people filled the school gymnasium to watch the production, which was directed and narrated by music instructor Aimee Carroll of the Center of Music and Art in Wintersville. She organized the program with help from Janie Bodo, school physical education teacher and Special Olympics coordinator while her husband, Stephan Carroll, provided piano accompaniment. Different classes took turns onstage as roughly 80 typical and special needs students joined staff members to dance, sing, and even speak a few lines from the classic story while dressed in winter attire or as Peanuts characters.

One of the many highlights was when 9-year-old Braden Blackburn played a few notes as Schroeder. Carroll said he has been taking lessons at CMA for the past year and reads color-coded picture cards, matching them to corresponding piano keys. However, he is beginning to identify notes on his own. Carroll added that everyone did a wonderful job.

“I just couldn’t be more proud of the staff and the kids. It’s a wonderful place to work,” she said.

She explained that the program differed from previous events because the preschool, elementary, and secondary students would normally sing holiday songs and play instruments, while the latest production included a storyline. She added that the group selected the Charlie Brown story to perform.

Additionally, Bodo was pleased with the result, saying the students worked very hard to prepare for their big day.

“I think it went really well. The kids were amazing and the staff was amazing,” she said.

In addition to directing the production, Carroll worked with CMA art instructor Gerald Van Scyoc and Bodo to create the production’s scenery. Both of the instructors spend time at the school each month teaching students various art and music projects. The Christmas program is one of two events held at the school, while the other is the spring production in May that coincides with graduation festivities.

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(Photo Cutline: Special needs students at the School of Bright Promise in Wintersville showcased their talents during their performance of “It’s A Charlie Brown Christmas” on Dec. 17. Among them were, pictured from left, Logan Briggs, teacher Nanette Neary, Preston Yantz, Jesse Kuczykowski, and Jovon Galloway.)

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