

Freddie the Frog enhances music studies

Your Neighbor

BY JACKIE TRIER
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JEFFERSON — Clinton Prairie first- and second-graders put on a production of *Freddie the Frog and the mighty Meter Gnome* in conjunction with a literary series first-graders study in music.

This book is one in a series including *Freddie the Frog and the Thump in the Night*, *Freddie the Frog and the Bass clef Monster*, *Freddie the Frog and the Mysterious Wahooooo* and *Freddie the Frog and the Secret of Crater Island*.

"The music teacher uses these books to teach musical elements, like beats," said Assistant Principal Amanda Whitlock, who is in charge of literacy.

The stories are written by Sharon Burch and the lyrics were written by Mark Burrows.

Students learn about

teamwork, friendship and music concepts. These include beat and tempo terms.

Characters include Super Frog, Mr. E, the ants, and Meter Gnome.

Second-grader Braidyn Kelley played the Meter Gnome.

"I lose control, and then the superheroes save the ants and me," Kelley said.

The Meter Gnome sets the pace for how fast the ants work, and when it breaks the ants are worked until they drop.

Second-grader Luke Longenecker played the frog that stopped the Meter Gnome's ticking.

"It took a while to memorize all my parts" Longenecker said.

The second-graders had speaking parts, but the first-graders sang.

"All the first-graders were ants, and the second-graders had musical instruments to play," Whitlock said.

Librarians from Frankfort Community and Colfax-Perry Township public libraries talked to parents before the musical about the summer reading programs

and gave parents tips on how to keep kids actively reading during the summer months.

"It would help if parents read, too," said Brenda Kinslow, children's librarian in Colfax. "If they see their parents reading they are more apt to pick

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up a book too."

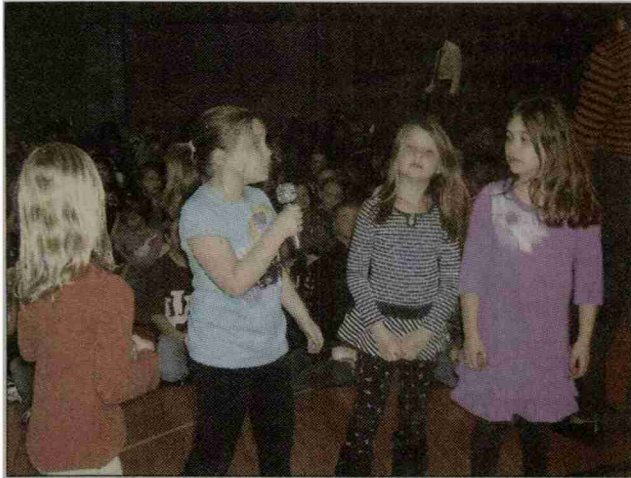
The library is a free resource for parents to use to help educate their children.

The Colfax library will have a summer reading program from June 1 to July 1 for students of all ages. Parents may register children May 23-27.

"They just need to come in here and sign up the kids," Kinslow said. "We give them a little passport with their picture on it. We travel around the world through reading."

The library will have items for children to try on, like clothes from Spain and Africa. There will also be a day the library will offer tastes of foods from different areas of the world.





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MUSICAL TIME — Second-graders Kaitlyn Jarrett, Grace Anes and Victoria Florence presented during the Clinton Prairie Elementary musical, *Freddie the Frog and the Mighty Meter Gnome*. Make this image yours. Go to www.ftimes.com.