

Northlight Theatre brings educational program to Marie Murphy

SUBMITTED BY AVOCA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 37

In the week preceding spring break, students at Marie Murphy were given the opportunity to delve deeper into their theatrical creativity facilitated by the Skokie Northlight Theatre. The Avoca School District 37 Parent Teacher Council used a portion of their funds to contribute to the theater program at Marie Murphy by bringing outside professional theater artists to the middle school level.

Amanda Dunne Acevedo, the Northlight Theatre director of Education Services, facilitates a variety of education programs that give students of all ages hands-on theatrical experiences with professionals in the field. Dunne Acevedo joined professional actors Christopher Wilson and Kelsey



Sixth-grade students from Marie Murphy School act out theater pieces around emotional themes following instruction from professionals at the Skokie Northlight Theatre. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Chigas to lead the middle school students through three different theatrical master classes. The master classes gave students a glimpse of the type of preparation and learning professional actors participate in throughout their careers.

The sixth-grade students participated in a devised theater session, in which they were able to develop their own unique theater piece around an emotional theme. Students demonstrated their improvisational skills through a variety of me-

diams working towards a performance collage of dramatized moments that illustrated the feel of their given emotion.

The seventh-grade students were taught about the art and intricacies of theater makeup and how it can add to the power of character on stage. Students learned the purpose and placement of highlights and shadows, the application of old-age accents and were able to create the illusion of injury, such as bruises and cuts.

Eighth-grade students were offered a master class in stage combat training. They were given instruction on the proper way to engage in combat on stage without harming their peers and making it believable to the audience. Techniques included safe rehearsal procedures, punches and falls.