

Adirondack Daily Enterprise

Schools team up to stage play about community garden



North Country School and Northwood School students rehearse the play “Seedfolks” in NCS’s new Walter Breeman Performing Arts Center. (Photo provided)

LAKE PLACID — “*Seedfolks*” is coming to Lake Placid Center for the Arts at 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday. The play is a collaboration between students of North Country School and Northwood School, both in Lake Placid.

“Seedfolks” is based on the novel of the same name by Paul Fleischman. It focuses on how diverse characters come together to transform a bleak empty lot into a vibrant community garden.

The production, directed by Northwood English and drama teacher Noel Carmichael and North Country theater teacher Courtney Allen, marks a first-time drama collaboration between the two schools.

“Northwood School’s theme this year is ‘community,’” Carmichael said. *“For this reason, we chose a play that centers around the idea of a community forming from a group of otherwise disparate groups. Then we thought it would be really powerful to not only do a play about the topic of community, but to use such a play to develop our own community by working with another school on the production.”*

About 40 students are involved in the production, with rehearsals and set building taking place at North Country School’s new Walter Breeman Performing Arts Center. Rehearsals moved to LPCA the week prior to the show.



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Allen said the project has been fun and educational.

“Scenes with both schools involved may look different when rehearsing all together, so our actors have learned to be flexible,” Allen said. “It has been really positive watching the students interact with each other during rehearsals. There have been a lot of getting-to-know-you conversations, and the actors have lifted each other up in their performances.”

Allen added that the theme in the show is heartwarming, and it’s a good reminder about the power of community.

“At a time when life can be so polarizing, working on a show that focuses on building something together and not judging each other by outside appearances is an extremely powerful message that everyone can get behind,” Allen said.