

Costume
Supercenter.com
Super Costume Selections at Super Low Prices!

10% OFF

USE CODE: **SAVETEN**
ALL ORDERS \$60+
SHOP NOW

[Home](#) / [News](#)

Science Theater: Mountain View gets into the act



Heather Kennison/Elko Daily Free Press

Get in the Act executive director and lead teaching artist Diane Handzel, left, acts out the effects of rain on rock during Science Theater at Mountain View Elementary on Sept 30. At right is third-grade student Justice Sirotek, 8, who is pretending to be a rock.

October 02, 2013 2:30 am • By [HEATHER KENNISON](#) — hkennison@elkodaily.com

[\(1\) Comments](#)

ELKO — Some things can be easily learned through the arts.

Get in the Act! Arts in Action brought its Science Theater program to Mountain View Elementary Sept. 23 through Tuesday to teach students through acting. The theme was "Rocks and Minerals."

"We're hoping to expand this style of learning to all the schools in this area," said Get in the Act executive director and lead teaching artist Diane Handzel.

Students in all grades at Mountain View Elementary were able to learn about the forms of rock through interactive, impromptu skits.

"The curriculum changes with the age of the students," said program manager and secretary Gary Handzel.

Get in the Act was established in 2009 in Stateline. Since 2010, it has worked with five school districts statewide. Newmont Mining, Joy Global Foundation and the Nevada Arts Council contributed grants to bring the program to Mountain View Elementary and Battle Mountain.

"It enabled us to service 1,200 students," Diane Handzel said.

With a masters degree in interactive arts education and a Bachelor of Arts in theater, Diane Handzel operates the business with her husband and other board members. This was the first time Get in the Act came to Elko County.

Gary Handzel came to the business with a background in finance.

"I essentially left that industry to help Diane," Handzel said. "It's something I believe in."

The children were given brief instructions before each skit and, in some cases, props. Through the activities, they learned the difference between lava- and magma-formed igneous rock, and how water and wind affect rock.

"Wind can really sweep and shape a rock," Diane Handzel told the third-grade students in Jennifer Andersen's class. "... Rain can make a rock really smooth, and wear it away. Plants are part of the weathering process, too."

To prove her point, she showed the children an example of the effects of wind, water and plants on hair. Using several wigs, the third-graders laughed as they watched the instructor bring out the next one.

"They have to really listen so they know what to do," Diane Handzel said. "... It's good for their listening skills."

Before the acts, students participated in activities of "face stretching" and tongue-twisters, both to build esteem and to get into the act.

"Science Theater is a wonderful way to engage students with any topic," said Tena Williams, a second-grade teacher at Mountain View Elementary. "If we taught this way each day, retention and recall would skyrocket."

Get in the Act offers nine other science-themed programs, such as electricity and solar systems.

(1) Comments

Sandi - October 07, 2013 5:46 am

[Report Abuse](#)

I have had first hand experience with Diane teaching my children when they were younger while she was working at the Children's Museum in Chicago. She is a wonderful teacher who truly cares about expanding children's minds, and makes it fun for them to learn. She loves kids and has just as much fun teaching them! If you get the chance to enroll your child in one of the Get in the Act programs, I recommend that you do! They will enjoy it, and so will you!

ADD COMMENT

You must [Login](#) to comment.

[Click here to get an account it's free and quick](#)

More News Stories



Birth
Announcements