



Donna Seaton's sixth grade class at Sharon Elementary School puts on an enthusiastic performance from "The Wiz" during the school's recent fourth annual sixth grade show, "Gamble's Guys and Gals."

## "Touch Of Broadway" Comes To Sharon Elementary School

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

Last Thursday night, a touch of Broadway came to Sharon Elementary School. The third annual sixth grade show, this year dubbed "Gamble's Guys and Gals" after the school's principal, William Gamble, turned out to be a true extravaganza.

All four sixth grades at Sharon-111 students in all - had been practicing since January to perfect their dancing and singing routines. The performance featured music from "The Wiz" (Donna Seaton's class), "The Sound of Music" (Doris Golden's class), "South Pacific" (Roy Boyd's class), and "Annie" (Ann Wenzl's class).

Explained Delcia Harper, assistant principal for instruction at Sharon, the annual show, a project of the PTA, is one of the cultural arts events of the year. "I'm a firm believer in trying to develop creativity in children," she declared. "There's no better way than instilling in them the belief that they can do something. Each child was born with creativity. This production allows them to express themselves through dance and song." The yearly event, always draws from Broadway musicals and is well attended.

In addition to giving the students an outlet for their creativity, the project builds relationships as students work together with classmates, parents, and teachers. "Some who had been shy or introverted have just come out," Harper enthused.

In January, the classes began practicing three times a week, Harper explained. "In the beginning, they were really dragging," she recalled. "Then we started having the sixth grade students perform for each other, and that seemed to spark their interest." Prior to Thursday's performance, the students had two dress rehearsals, one for the intermediate grades, and one for elementary classes. "Now they seem about to burst open," she laughed just prior to the evening's show.

That they did. Excitement could be seen on the children's faces and heard in their voices long before the lights dimmed and the production began. The enthusiasm carried over into their singing and dancing.

During "The Wiz," Jenna Houser and Antoine Massey (what a voice this young man has!) thrilled the audience and brought tears to the eyes of more than one listener with solo performances. Angie Boyd, Chad Crawley, Tammy Shannon, and Ryan Squires performed solos from "The Sound of Music." In Mr. Ray Boyd's class, Keron Barefoot and Maureen Taylor gave solo performances. Soloists from "Annie" included Melissa Bonsall, Lisa Fleming, Matt Hawes, Keith Holder,

Christopher Lee, Holly Rubin, and Sherry Seitlin.

The Sunday following the performance, the class who did "The Wiz" performed at Memorial Stadium as part of the "Celebration for Young Children" event.

Parents were very much involved in the whole production. Janet Rubin and Diane Bailey served as directors and choreographers for "Annie," "The Sound of Music," and "South Pacific." Harper herself took care of the music and dance routines for "The Wiz." Pianists for the evening were Kathy Borrelli, Gloria Berry, and Harper.

As Harper pointed out, the whole project really coincided with the School System's theme this year: "Education Is A Family Affair." "Parents and children worked hard to get the production off successfully," she declared. "We have a

very active PTA. They're very supportive."

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### History Day

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte will host the state's 1985 "History Day" contest Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. in Cone University Center.

Dr. Robert Rieke, UNCC history professor and state coordinator for "History Day," said approximately 180 students in grades six through 12 are expected to enter the contest, which has as its theme this year "Triumph and Tragedies in History."

Contestants will be the winners and first runners-up from the state's eight district contests held earlier this year. State winners and first runners-up will be eligible to attend the national history contest June 11-14 in Washington, D.C.

Students may enter projects in one of four categories: historical papers, projects, performances or media presentations. Topics for this year's entries include the Roanoke voyage, D-Day, the Battle of Kings Mountain, and the diary of Anne Frank.

Exhibits will be displayed and performances presented from 9 a.m. until noon, with the awards presentation ceremony between 2 and 2:30 p.m. The contest is open to the public.