

# NEW BOSTON BULLETIN

Supporting a Community Working Together for the Common Good.

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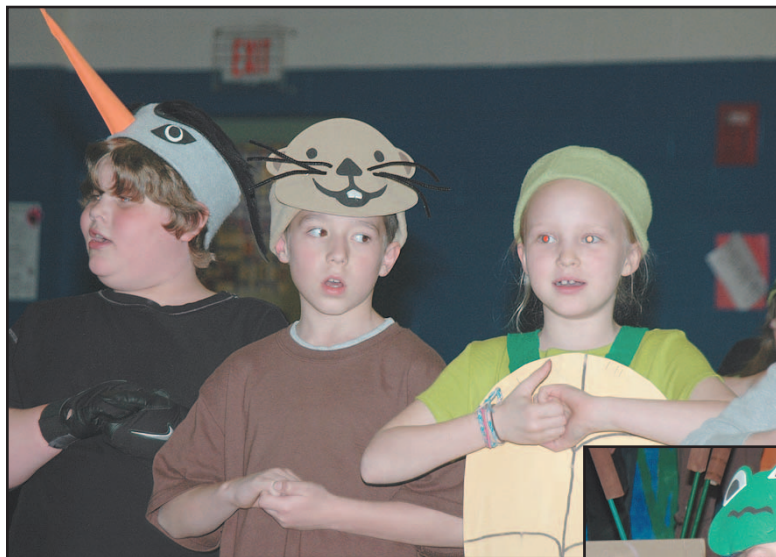


COMPLIMENTARY

## CHANGING BULLY THE BULLFROG



2nd graders presented a delightful play that addressed bullying.



L-R, Devin Raymond, Justin Monfette and Abigail Danielson. The inhabitants of Lindentown Swamp used the power of music to change Bully the Bullfrog (Kevin Kennerson at right).



See lots more photos on pages 30 and 31.

## 26 Years is Longer than Oprah!



*"It's been a great ride here, like having an extended family!"*

Rick Matthews

by Brandy Mitroff

Well, after he's been the Principal at the New Boston Central School for 26 years, I thought it was time we found out just who Rick Matthews really is!

Rick grew up as an only child on a farm in Swanzey, New Hampshire, just on the border with Keene. His dad was a retired Marine and his mom worked for an insurance company. Rick's grandparents, who ran a plumbing business, also lived with them. As a hobby, the family raised pigs and beef cattle.

He graduated from Keene High School in 1969 and went on to Plymouth State College. While Rick's interest was in physical education and math, he was advised that there were better job prospects in elementary education, especially for a man with a coaching background. In 1974, he graduated from Plymouth with a BS in elementary education and a side certification in special education, which was very unusual at that time.

Rick's first job was at the elementary school in Bristol, where he was hired to teach a self-contained special education class. He noted that where his classroom was, in the basement beside the furnace, sadly represented how these challenged students were thought of back in the '70s.

He stayed in Bristol for three years before taking a

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# A Froggy Day in Lindentown



This delightful musical play was yet another opportunity to address bullying. When Bully the Bullfrog moves into Lindentown Swamp, it turns out to be a Froggy Day for all of the inhabitants. This once happy little community of creatures finds itself up against an unpleasant and rude "bully."

His disagreeable behavior proves to be a disruption in the otherwise peaceful existence of Lindentown's happy citizens. When another calamity strikes, the inhabitants come up with a solution through the power of music.

Bully, who has a great voice, is asked to perform in the "All-Swamp Sing" and he now has a reason to be a positive and contributing citizen of Lindentown.

Through this play, the children learn that there are other ways to deal with bullies and that even bullies like to be recognized as valued members of their community. They also learn that music can be a unifying force that can be harnessed to bring peace and joy.

This was a great performance with a timely message—Well Done!  
—Brandy Mitroff



*Here in Lindentown we like to play, we sing and dance most ev'ry day. We do our own thing, we go our own way and once you come to visit us, you'll want to stay.*

Photos by  
Brandy Mitroff



