Press&Dakotan



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## **A Dino-Riffic Performance**



Mrs. Wagner's Kindergarten students from Lincoln Elementary School put on a dinosaur play this week. The children did an awesome job singing and acting out their parts. We had fun making our costumes, painting the background and practicing our songs! It was great to see so many parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors come to see our performance! Kindergarten rocks!!

## Pictured:

COURTESY PHOTOS

Top Left: Stegosaurus: Noah, Isaiah, Farrin and Mariah Bottom Left: Pterodactyl: Mariam, Isabel, Evie and Coltan Bottom Middle: Triceratops: Wyatt, Kayde, Dylan and Naila Top Right: Brontosaurus: Teisha, Brooks, Corbyn and Kylie Bottom Right: Tyrannosaurus Rex: Shayla, Alec, Connor and Aryanah









## Teen

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Winckler said. "I have just about \$3,000 in donations, and I have collected upwards of 30 legs. And that's not even the orthotics. I have been given quite a few orthotics. It's just been really cool support."

The collection project may have planted the seed for a permanent effort, said Katie's mother, Dorene Winckler.

"As a result of this senior project, an individual has inquired if they could assist Katie in creating a foundation in conjunction with a local veteran's hospital to collect prosthetics," Dorene said. "At this time, it's in the discussion phase."

As for the current collections, Katie has even made stops to pick up the donated limbs.

"A Mitchell guy was the first person that gave me prostheses," she said. "I was serving as a legislative page in Pierre, so I told him we were going past Mitchell on "This is such a personal journey for me. I want to see it to the end," she said. "I'll probably send a set of my own legs down there (to Oklahoma City). And the Twin Cities Shriners have been so gracious to me from the beginning, I want to give back."

Dorene said the road trips will likely come in April, after Katie finishes with the school play.

Katie has spoken freely about her prosthesis, sharing information with anyone who wants to know more.

She has also encouraged fellow students experiencing

their own anxieties in life. Last semester, she shared with elementary students her stories of dealing with bullying and with questions about why she was "different."

"When I gave my presentation, my main idea was that I wanted to tell them it was OK to be yourself, and if something like this ever happens, it's not the end," she said.

Through both the collections and the greater awareness, Katie's project will positively affect the lives of countless others, Dorene said. "This has been a great learning experience for the whole family," Dorene said. "There are a lot of great people out there who knew that the items they had could be reused. They knew it would be a tribute to those who they may have lost or to the lives they have lived.

"Katie has new friends today and has opened the eyes of many who may have had questions about her

own situation or the situations of others." Now, Katie is preparing for the next chapter in her life, looking to attend either

Augustana College in Sioux

Falls or Morningside College in Sioux City. She plans to major in secondary education and English with a minor in biology.

"I want to go into high school teaching," she explained.

In many ways, Katie is already teaching lessons to those around her, Dorene said.

"I believe that Katie serves as a strong role model for all of us," Dorene said. "(She's) compassionate and empathetic — focused on what it means to be a caring person. Isn't that what life is about? Supporting

each other as we should?"

For more information about the project, contact the Wincklers at (605) 583-4646.

You can mail prostheses or orthotics to the Wincklers at P.O. Box 313, Scotland SD 57059. You can send financial donations to Farmers & Merchants State Bank, P.O. Box 367, Scotland SD 57059.

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my way nome and we would just stop by to get his prostheses. When I got there, he had four legs for me."

The prostheses and orthotics hold a different meaning for each individual, Katie said. However, a common thread runs through each story.

"Lots of these people have legs that they are no longer using. Or someone has died and the family members don't know what to do with the (artificial) legs," she said. "People don't want to throw (the limbs) away, so they give them to me so that someone else can use them."

The prostheses and orthotics can be recycled for the most part, Katie said. "Because (the limbs) are so customized, you can't use the socket itself, but they can use the foot and hand metal pieces and even the foot attachments," she said.

Katie expressed her gratitude for the support shown the project. The response has been so strong that she has extended the March 1 deadline.

"We'll just keep taking donations (of both cash and prostheses/orthotics)," she said. "Right now, I don't have any donated arms and welcome them, too."

Katie isn't just shipping out the donated limbs or sending a check for the donated funds.

"My mom and I, and a friend, are taking road trips," she said. "We're delivering the prostheses and orthotics to Limbs for Life in Oklahoma City, and we're taking the money to the Shriners (clinic and hospital) in St. Paul."

Why make the special trips?

