



Port pre-teens find a voice with "Let's Do a Show"

In spite of being too old for a piggy back ride and too young for PG-13, Port Washington fifth and sixth graders have a lot to say! In the Judy Garland/Mickey Rooney tradition, theater and speech professional Elise May helped pre-teens find their voice and put it on stage. The library's new "Let's Do a Show" program completed a 6-week run last month.

Ten, 11 and 12 year olds met on Saturday mornings to create, write and perform a show. Working through improvisation and theater games, participants developed scenes, monologues, songs, rap and poetry. The focus was getting these young actors to find their voice and learn how to use it. The series culminated in a fantastic performance.

The Port Washington Public Library, with a generous grant from the Port Washington Library Foundation, has helped bring Let's

Do a Show to fruition with the goal of igniting interest among the pre-teens of Port Washington, who usually feel too old for the Children's Room and not quite ready for Teen Space. Ms. May, a Port resident, is hoping to create a group identity, including logo t-shirts, to help the tweens feel that they have a special community which understands their needs.

Elise May has taught her Arts-in-Education programs to children and adults in the United States, Canada, Bermuda and England for over 25 years. Her Storytime Theater/Bringing Books to Life and Expressive Elocution/Speaking for Success programs, have been in hundreds of classrooms reaching thousands of students.

Look for a new series this spring.

The Port Washington Public Library

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