

Alton Public School students staged Peter Pan Jr.

By James Matthews

Pint-sized thespians tread the boards at Orangeville's old opera house in sold-out performances of Peter Pan Jr. recently.

Each year, students at Alton Public School mount a stage production. Over the years, they've done Annie, Aladdin, and the Little Mermaid among others. They even managed the whole arduous two-and-half-hour production of The Wizard of Oz.

Students started rehearsals and other preparations for the production just after Halloween. It involved students of the arts rotation, which includes art, music, and drama streams. A total of 55 kids were in the production.

Teacher Judith Phillips said the students have been looking forward to being in a production since Grade 4. And the Grade 6 students have had three years experience in the large productions and with speaking parts.

"This is amazing because all the students are involved," she said. "They all have two or three songs. Special costumes are made for them. The students gain so much confidence."

And all those costumes and the set design were made by parents who volunteered their time. The many props on stage this year were made by a student's mother who works part-time as a nurse.

"It's a community school," Phillips observed.