

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

Superintendent Highlight of the Week February 6, 2015

Our teachers and students recently had the unique opportunity of working with Karen Erickson, an internationally renowned theater educator, as she led workshops as part of our special partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Partners in Education program. The primary purpose of this partnership is to provide professional learning in the arts for teachers that is then utilized in the classroom.



Some of our middle school teachers examined how to define and share images of bullying with students. By exploring the roles of hero, bully, bystander, instigator, and target, they learned how to engage students in drama activities to experience the role each plays in contributing to or resolving bullying activities. After meeting with teachers, Ms. Erickson ran a workshop with students, demonstrating the activities with hands-on participation. The drama activities fostered concentration, image work, collaboration, and the communication of ideas through movement.

Next, Ms. Erickson worked with some of our first and second grade teachers as they explored a step-by-step process of integrating science concepts and drama strategies into the classroom. Teachers learned how to transform science lessons into active, student-centered explorations through drama strategies, such as expressive movement and enacted story. Teachers also worked on activities to develop teamwork, building group dynamics, and creative problem solving skills.



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