

Thespians find bonding opportunities at State

Thespians

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"I really enjoyed the competition portion of the weekend. The adrenaline in the room is always a thrill for me," Stapleton said.

On Thursday and Friday nights, there was a dance for the participants. Thursday was a Harry Potter themed dance and on Friday the theme was Lady Gaga.

"Everyone dressed up according to the theme," Ashely Welp, junior, said. "The Lady

Gaga dance was crazy. There were some really interesting costumes."

Although the group scene qualified for Nationals, they have decided not to attend this year.

"Most of the girls that qualified went to Nationals last year," Murray said. "They already had the experience. Many of them are seniors and have already decided on colleges to attend in the fall."

Eighteen Thespians went on to State after performances at

the regional competition Feb. 5, at Putnam High School. Along with acting, there were stage management competitions and a play writing category.

In the stage management category, Welp, won first place. The competition in this category was very tough, according to Murray.

"I competed at Regionals for solo acting and duo dramatic, but I didn't qualify for State. With stage management you don't have to go through the regional process, so I decided to

go for that," Welp said.

In the play writing category, Megan Kays, senior, received third place for her original play entitled "Blind," which will be performed in Shorts 12 on May 12-13.

"Blind is about a family that is going through some rough times. The daughter asks her father what is happening and both parents explain the situation through a fairy tale," Kays said.

According to Kays, the idea for *Blind*, evolved from

something completely different, while she was working on it with the help of Annie Kaiser, Performing Arts Coordinator.

"The highlight for me was definitely watching my play be performed on stage," Kays said.

While some Thespians found certain events to be their highlight, others found bonding time to be the best part of the weekend.

"The best part of state for me was the quality time with all of the troupe members," Welp said.

Rhoades uses past to help with future

Now Superintendent

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In school, Rhoades preferred "real world" classes, such as cadet teaching, journalism and video technology. "I was the first student to be trained to use the video camera and the VCR," Rhoades said.

With experience as a biology teacher in Elmira, Ore., Rhoades was able to experience a hands-on way of teaching. "We were able to spend a lot of time in the field, where we used an inquiry-based, ecological approach to learning about living systems,"

Rhoades said. "We were able to visit and study natural areas throughout the state, and we were really able to come to understand our interdependence with and impact on the variety of natural systems in Oregon."

After working in several schools as a teacher, Rhoades began to think about taking the step toward becoming an administrator.

"I was interested in working with other teachers, and I thought having administrative training might be helpful in a teacher mentor role." He was hired as Chief Academic Officer at Bend and Director of Second-

ary Education at Woodburn before becoming assistant principal of Milwaukie High School.

When his time at Milwaukie ended, Rhoades was hired as assistant superintendent in Hillsboro. He feels that working in many different learning environments has impacted Rhoades positively.

"I've learned that each community has its own identity, culture, beliefs, values, hopes and fears and it is important to do a lot of listening and learning about the community," Rhoades said. "I look forward to the opportunity to

get to know students, staff and schools well."

When it comes to hearing community voices, Rhoades believes it is important for a smooth running community. "I think that every conversation and opportunity for collaboration is an opportunity to cultivate and incorporate community and staff voices," Rhoades said.

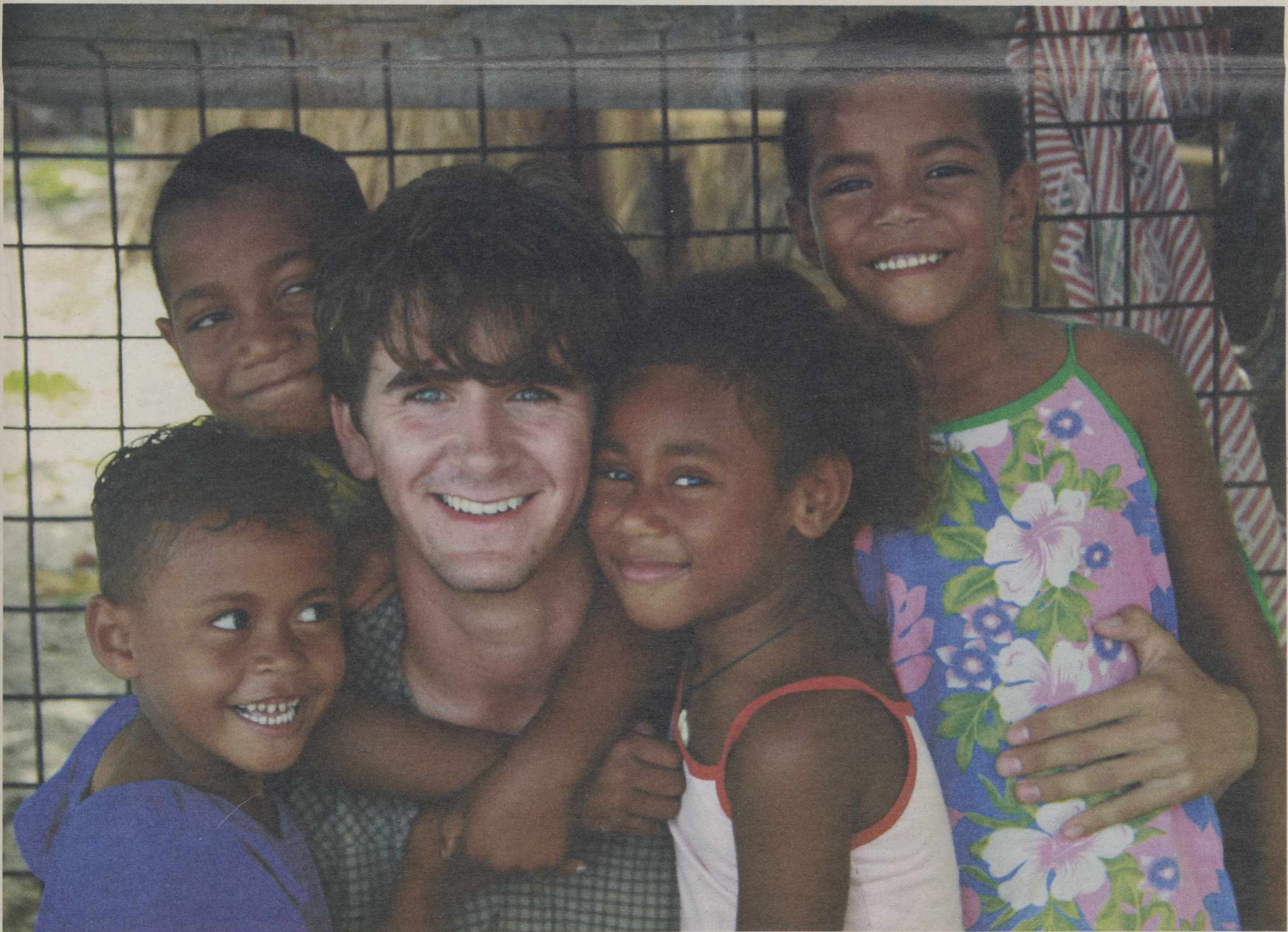
In addition to soliciting staff voices from around the district, Rhoades is interested in student opinions as well. "I want you to know that I believe hearing student voices is equally important to me as the superintendent of

schools."

Rhoades already has an idea about asking for opinions from the community.

"Sometimes we will need to hear feedback and opinions on specific topics or decisions and sometimes we will want to know about the broader hopes and fears of our students, staff, and community," Rhoades said.

In his personal life, Rhoades finds his family most important. "I enjoy spending time with my family, my wife Kimberley, my son Kiger, 7, and my daughter Karah, 10," Rhoades said.



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