



Peter Pan (Jeppie Johnson), second from right, plans his next move with the soon-to-be "Lost Boys" in a scene from LaCreole Middle School's production of "Tick Tock." The musical runs Friday and Saturday at the school.

A time before Neverland

LaCreole Middle School's musical 'Tick Tock' tells Peter Pan back story

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Ever wonder how Peter Pan's Lost Boys became the Lost Boys?

Or why Peter loves to antagonize Captain Hook?

Or why Peter and Tinker Bell are so close in the original story?

LaCreole Middle School's spring musical "Tick Tock," a prequel to the story of the boy who doesn't age, answers those questions and more.

"This is the back story to how Neverland became Neverland," said eighth-grader Kade Metzger, who plays Capt. James Hook.

"Tick Tock" takes the stage at the school on Friday and Saturday.

The beginning of the play finds Tinker Bell, Captain



Peter (Jeppie Johnson) and Tinker Bell (Rachael Ruman) sing a duet during a scene in "Tick Tock."

Hook's daughter, and Peter innocently flirting.

"Tinker Bell is a highly spirited girl who really loves

Peter and wants him to feel the same way about her," said Rachael Ruman, who plays Tinker Bell.

Needless to say, Hook isn't too happy about their budding romance.

He's so angry that he enlists the "evil witch" to cast a spell to break them up.

Thus begins the first escape of the classic enemies.

"He's kind of good and bad," Kade said of Hook. "He is angry, but he's definitely overprotective of Tinker Bell."

For his part, Peter employs a crew of Hook's ship hands, soon-to-be known as the "Lost Boys," to spy on the captain's every move.

"Tick Tock" is based on a book by Mitch Garrison with music by Katie Kibota.

Fans of the original Peter Pan story said they like details revealed in the prequel musical.

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Planning underway for kitchen upgrades

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Construction on new multipurpose rooms at Oakdale Heights and Lyle elementary schools in Dallas is slated to begin this summer.

At its meeting Feb. 22, the Dallas School Board got a first glimpse of what the additions, which will double as kitchens and cafeterias, will look like during a presentation from architect AC + Co.

At both schools, the multipurpose rooms will replace the gyms as the location for lunch service and sorely outdated kitchens.

Facilities Manager Kevin Montague said when the updates were first discussed, the plan wasn't to move the kitchens. The more he and building principals looked at how space was being used compared to other schools, the more the idea made sense.

"If we are going to be doing this — doing upgrades in the kitchen, which we need — let's go a little bit further and put the kitchen where it belongs, and that is where we serve the kids," Montague said.

He said increasing requirements for physical education class time also played into the decisions.

"If you ask the principals, they will tell you it's actually impossible to meet the P.E. requirements that are coming with our current situation," he said.

Montague said kitchen equipment across the district is on the verge of failing or becoming impossible to repair because parts are no longer made.

Richard Rothweiler, a senior architect with AC + Co., said the construction project will take care of both problems of inefficiently used space and fail-

ing equipment. "All the equipment will be brand new and up-to-date, energy efficient, of the right size, and of the right capacity so everything could be handled correctly," he said.

Oakdale's multipurpose room will be built where the covered play area is now, using the existing roof and side walls.

A new covered play area will be built on the playground.

The old kitchens in both schools will be converted into classroom space, and other areas will be remodeled for P.E. offices, equipment storage and other uses.

At Lyle, the addition will be located in the space between the gym and covered play area.

The design allows the school to open the gym and/or multipurpose room to the public for events while closing off access to the rest of the school.

Both schools will have their front entrances remodeled to add extra security. Rothweiler said a second set of doors will be added to restrict access to the buildings.

"You can exit, but you won't be able to get in unless you are buzzed in," Rothweiler said.

Cost estimates for the work haven't been penciled out yet, but Rothweiler said he wants to work quickly to get the projects out to bid. He said construction companies are increasingly busy, and that means costs are going up.

"If there's any indication in our office, we are the busiest we've been in 10 years. Everybody is building," he said. "We are working really hard to get these things out to bid right away for start of this summer construction."



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