

Taproot Theatre Takes Bullying Prevention Plays to the Classroom

Road Company addresses bullying during October's Bully Prevention Month and all year long

SEATTLE, WA – October 6, 2022 – Taproot Theatre's Road Company is on the road bringing its bullying prevention assemblies to schools throughout the region both in-person and virtually for the 2022-2023 school year. Taproot's Road Company has several plays available to students in kindergarten through 5th grade and 6th through 12th grade, guided by Committee for Children's Second Step Curriculum.

Taproot Theatre's Road Company equips schools and students with the tools to be supportive bystanders and to refuse bullying behavior of any kind. Each year, the Road Company tours bullying prevention plays to hundreds of schools, serving over 100,000 students each year.

During the pandemic when schools were closed, Taproot created virtual options for schools that would allow them to release plays to their students as Virtual Assemblies. This has allowed Taproot to reach even more students than before, and Taproot is offering both in-person and virtual options during the 2022-2023 school year.

ABOUT TAPROOT THEATRE'S 2022-2023 ASSEMBLIES

***BUGS!* | K – 5th Grade | In-Person (Virtual Option Coming Spring 2023)**

By Melanie Hampton

Things are snug as a bug in a rug at school until the new kid shows up with enviable expertise about bugs. All the students think Max is the bee's knees. All of them, except Logan, whose jealousy turns into bullying behavior that's as bad as a case of bed bugs. Will the other students realize they can't just be flies on a wall? Can Max stand up to Logan's bullying behavior? And is their room for new friendship on the playground?

Education Goals: Recognizing, Reporting, and Refusing Bullying Behavior; Being a Positive Bystander; Celebrating Differences; Welcoming Newcomers/Forming Friendships

ALLIES FROM OUTER SPACE / K – 5th Grade | In-Person & Virtual

by Bethany Wallace

Jeepers creepers! The aliens are coming to school, and they never shower! At least that's the gossip when an alien spaceship makes an emergency landing on earth. While waiting for repairs, the alien queen on board sends her daughter to the local school with a mission: to find out if humans are intolerant of differences and if they use their technology to bully others. Will the students at Galaxia Elementary treat Princess Komodo with respect despite her tail and webbed fingers? Or will their bullying behavior force the queen to take drastic measures against bullying and wipe out the earth's technology for good?!

Education Goals: Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying Behavior; Accepting Differences and Confronting Prejudice; Using Technology Responsibly

RELATIONSHIP STATUS / 6th – 12th Grade | In-Person (Virtual Option Coming Spring 2023)

By Anne Kennedy Brady

Jason and Trevor have been best friends for years, but Jason's pursuit of Claire throws it all into turmoil. As alliances shift and Trevor struggles to maintain their friendship, Jason and his new girlfriend begin an online campaign of bullying and harassment which leaves Trevor isolated and upset. With newfound confidence, Jason begins a run for class president, providing Trevor an opportunity to publicly humiliate him. Relationship Status examines the social consequences of online behavior, and how to make positive choices to end the downward spiral of cyberbullying and harassment.

Education Goals: Cyberbullying Prevention; Understanding the Consequences of Gossip and Rumors; Examining Various Forms of Bullying and Harassment, Both Subtle and Overt; Personal and Social Responsibility

TEAM-PLAYER MODE / K – 5th Grade | Virtual Only

by Bethany Wallace

Today's mission: start at a new school and make some friends. After Ben moves in with his dad he finds out life at his new school is way different. Everyone makes fun of his backpack and they all play that new adventure video game. If Ben can just learn how to play and complete a mission he'll be invited to join The 5th Grade Gamers. But between his opponents in the fantastical video game world and the students at school, Ben's going to need the power of the three R's: Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing bullying behavior and the teamwork of his gaming friends to complete his mission.

Education Goals: Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying Behavior; How to Be a Positive Bystander; Accepting Differences

SUPER SCHOOL / K – 5th Grade | Virtual Only

By Bethany Wallace

Your favorite heroes from *Camp Super Friend* are back for a new adventure!

It's Marvel's first day at Asteroid Academy and Jet introduces him to Danrelle, a girl with invisibility power, and Tilly, a girl with super-strength and a temper to match. When Danrelle uses her power to steal Tilly's rocket ball and bully her into losing her temper, Tilly's reaction puts her in danger of being suspended. Can Tilly learn to manage her emotions in time? Will the students of Asteroid Academy learn the power of the three R's: Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying Behavior before their actions cause superhero-sized trouble?

Education Goals: Recognizing, Reporting, and Refusing Bullying Behavior; Empathizing with Others; Managing Emotions

BOOKING: Visit taproottheatre.org/touring/school or email touring@taproottheatre.org for pricing and availability.

GRAPHICS: taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/ and select "Touring"

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About Taproot Theatre's Road Company

Taproot Theatre's Road Company has toured their dynamic social-issue plays to over 1 million students throughout the Pacific Northwest since its inception in 1985. In addition to touring productions, Taproot Theatre also provides teachers with practical resources to facilitate classroom discussion and increase the effectiveness of each show's message. The actors are also available for individual classroom visits. To book a show, please email touring@taproottheatre.org. For more information or complete descriptions of each show in the 2020-2021 touring season, visit taproottheatre.org/touring.

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