

Inside

NEWS Rocky Mountain Trench Society gets provincial grant **P.4**

NEIGHBOURHOOD Pastors and friends show people about homelessness **P.8**

SPORTS Kootenay Ice mourn the passing of Ed Chynoweth **P.16**

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KERSTIN RENNER / KOOTENAY NEWS

PLEDGING TO LOOK OUT FOR MOTHER NATURE Jasmine Beaulac signs her name on a pledge card after the Green Kids performance at Columbia Theatres in Cranbrook on Monday while her classmate Cali Émel is looking on. The two girls enjoyed the show 'Pallais Oops' and already have ideas how they can help the environment by doing things like following the three Rs - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Read more about 'Pallais Oops' and Green Kids on page 7.

Kootenay **NEIGHBOURHOOD****Kootenay kids help out the environment**

KERSTIN RENNER

Kootenay News Editor

Elementary students got a chance on Monday to kick off Earth Week in the East Kootenay with a special presentation in Cranbrook at the Tamarack Centre. Green Kids, a traveling theatre troupe from Winnipeg, made a stop at the mall as part of the "Growing Up Green" tour. The idea of their show "Pallais Oops" is to bring environmental awareness to young people using the art of pantomime.

Ron "Cookie" Moore is

the Green Kids Road Manager and says he and his team of actors want to show the kids what kind of earth their generation is leaving them. On the other hand, they also want to show the students that if they change their habits and how they live now, the future can be a better place.

"The three Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - those are our main themes throughout the show," Moore explains. He adds they also address issues such as climate change and riding your bike instead of the car to keep the planet healthy.

Their Vaudeville inspired show centers around three main characters: the mighty Atlas who carries the world on his shoulders and his two assistants - Hands and Fingers.

The three discover that the earth is overheating and they try to figure out ways how they can make her feel better. Thanks to some quick changes and colourful costumes, the audience also met several other characters who entertain the students with their slapstick antics.

"There is a lot of information in the show," Moore points out. 'Pallais Oops' is meant to be

shown for kids in elementary schools. While Moore knows some of the information is a little over the heads of some of the younger children, they still enjoy the show. The older kids, Moore believes, get the message and they play a vital part in the performance. "A lot of energy comes from the kids."

The young audience in Cranbrook certainly enjoyed 'Pallais Oops' and many students left the theatre humming or singing the theme song of the show: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - to get things on the mend [...] Start fixing up the planet that's what we've got to do."

Jasmine Beaulac and Cali Emel are students in Mrs. Popoffs Grade 1/2 class at Gordon Terrace. Jasmine really enjoyed the funny moments while Cali thought it was nice to see how the actors manages to make the earth feel better with all the pollution happening.

Both girls already do their part to make a difference, but both have also promised to do even more in the future. Jasmine says she will put even more things into the recycling bin and maybe even turn some of the garbage that cannot be recycled into art. Cali states she picks up garbage other people drop in the city all the time and hopes this helps the earth.



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INTERVENTION Atlas tries to control the puppets 'Progress' (left) and 'Commerce' to make the earth feel better in the play 'Pallais Oops' at the Tamarack Centre.