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**The Perilous Predicaments of PINOCCHIO**

The Tidewater Winds educational presentation of Pinocchio will inspire, educate, inform, and entertain children of all ages. Through the power of music and storytelling, students will experience a program with something for the heart, head, and hands….and maybe just learn something about themselves in the process.

The program presents the story of Pinocchio in an entertaining way. Students will receive their own personal book of the Pinocchio story. The illustrated book uses both photographs of the Pinocchio puppet and illustrations of the characters that Pinocchio interacts with. Students will read the book before attending the performance to provide greater context of the story, will instill a love for reading and come to the concert to see that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The plot of the stories will spur students thinking and will provide concrete examples of challenges that everyone faces in life.

**Learning Objectives**

* To use multiple pathways to creatively respond to social issues that are relevant to everyday children.
* To provide a platform for social-emotional and behavioral ideals to come to fruition.
* To demonstrate that music is an artistic medium through which one can respond to, support, and convey a message.
* To encourage students to read and make deeper connections to what they read
* To education, inspire and entertain.

**Pinocchio**

The story of Pinocchio is known, far and wide as the puppet who strived to become a boy and through his adventures learned to live up to the qualities required of a real boy: to be 'brave, truthful and unselfish. The Tidewater Winds production of Pinocchio is refreshing way to instruct children about the basics of good behavior. The Tidewater Winds will use music with a narration to tell the story and live puppets to bring the music and narration to life.

**Three Performance Takeaways**

## 1. Your conscience tells you right from wrong.

One of the main characters from *Pinocchio* is the adorable character of the Cricket. Even young children can picture what their conscience is when they envision the Cricket’s sweet, well-intentioned character. Not only does the Cricket reinforce that you should use your conscience when faced with temptation, but he also shows that your conscience is always there for you in times of need.

## 2. Be truthful.

As a young, wooden boy, Pinocchio finds himself in multiple undesirable situations. Pinocchio’s nose grows when he tells a lie, he is forced to perform in a circus, and he finds trouble on Pleasure Island. During the process of becoming a real boy, Pinocchio is constantly being evaluated on his ability to be truthful to determine whether he should become a boy. Students read and see in the production the power of being truthful.

## 3. The consequences of making the wrong choice.

One of the most important lessons Pinocchio learns is that he could lose everything – including his father Geppetto – if he does not prove himself to be honorable. Although the storyline is known for Pinocchio’s nose growing every time he lies, he learns something just as important. Pinocchio begins to develop moral reasoning skills because he understands the consequences involved with doing the wrong thing. By attending this young person’s program, children will see importance of always make the right choice.

**Conclusion and Educational Outcomes**

Teaching children about their conscience, truthfulness, and consequences matter. Through this story students are encouraged to develop in the best possible manner, best for me, best for my family, best for the world and to tell the truth. In this production the story of *Pinocchio* reinforces that we want students to build themselves into a forthright individual who can tell the truth and will grow up capable of bearing the responsibility of citizenry.

This production conveys the message clearly and in a manner that children can enjoy. The message, music, and story are all timeless and is at the heart of social emotional heath.

**Supporting Statements**

• “Attention to social and emotional development is essential in young children’s school experience.” —Position Statement, National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE)

• “Social and behavioral competence in young children predicts their academic performance in the first grade over and above their cognitive skills and family backgrounds.” —Recommended Practices, Center for Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior

• “Given the current knowledge base about child development and learning, it is time to discard debates about social-emotional versus cognitive development and which comes first or is more important. Clearly, children develop in both areas over the same period, and learning and development in one, influences learning and development in the other.” —Outcomes Framework, Head Start