

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Theatre Company's performances of "My Son Pinocchio Jr."

Four shows offered April 10-12, 2014 • El Diamante Theater, 5100 W. Whitendale, Visalia

Visalia – This month, the Theatre Company will perform Disney's *My Son Pinocchio Jr.*, complete with a cast of 100 Tulare County students. *My Son Pinocchio Jr.* is the classic tale of toymaker Geppetto and his little wooden puppet, Pinocchio. In this new musical, the story is given new life and is told from Geppetto's perspective. The production features the beloved classic songs *When You Wish Upon a Star* and *I've Got No Strings*, plus a host of new songs by Oscar- and Grammy Award-winner and master melodist Stephen Schwartz.

Show director Nicole Zweifel invites the public to join Geppetto as he travels beyond the toy shop to discover the meaning of family. "*My Son Pinocchio Jr.* has a dynamic cast of middle school performers and is a magical mix of heartwarming fairy tale and action-packed adventure.

Audiences will love following Pinocchio's journey from an awkward wooden puppet to a real live boy and will be charmed by Geppetto's transformation from demanding creator to real live father," she says. Geppetto will be played by Owen Webb, a freshman at Redwood High School, Visalia. Noah Peltzer, a fourth-grade student at Rocky Hill Elementary in Exeter, will star as Pinocchio.

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Show times and ticket information: Evening shows will be held April 10, 11, 12 at 7:00 p.m. A matinee show will be offered Saturday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. General admission tickets are only \$10 per person and are available during normal business hours at two TCOE Visalia locations: 2637 West Burrel Avenue and 7000 Doe Avenue, Suite A. All performances will be held at the El Diamante High School Theater located at 5100 W. Whitendale Avenue in Visalia.

For information about the Theatre Company and the musical production, call director Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482.

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