

February 2, 2015 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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Bessie Weller Students Study China

(STAUNTON, VA – January 30, 2015) First and second grade students at Bessie Weller Elementary School brought their studies about China to life in their dramatization of *Tikki Tikki Tembo*, an Asian folk tale. As a part of their social studies curriculum, second graders learn about the inventions, lifestyle, and culture of China, while first graders learn about fairy tales, folktale and fables. Music brought these concepts together during the students' evening performance, where the students sang, acted, danced and played instruments to authentic music from the Orient.

"It is academically appropriate to backup classroom SOLs, but it is really magnificent to find a win-win," said music teacher Charlotte Gingerelli. "When you can teach children a classic story with a lesson about fairness and equality and expose them to culturally authentic music that is a lot of fun, you build connections. And in this age of information, children who are bombarded with facts, really thirst for ways to bring it all together."



Cady Cravello and Hailey Brunscheen from Mrs. Monger's second-grade class perform in *Tikki Tikki Tembo* at Bessie Weller.

Lee's Scholastic Bowl Team Headed to Regionals

(STAUNTON, VA – January 30, 2015) Robert E. Lee High School celebrated a stellar season with a first place finish at the Conference 36 Tournament on January 17 at Riverheads High School. The team finished the regular season with 10 wins and only 3 losses. Members of the team include Cady van Assendelft, Emma Diduch, Gus Hollberg, Michael Laterza, Ailec Wu and Bryce Colson.

When asked about her experience with Scholastic Bowl this season, Emma Diduch said: "It's fun, random, and challenging. It serves as an outlet for the useless and useful information we have stored in our brains." The team is coached by Bill Terry and Monica Roth. Regarding the team, Coach Terry commented: "I try to create an environment full of interested students excited about learning and competition. I challenge myself to keep up with them." The team competes in regional competition at Luray High School on February 7.



Cady Van Assendelft, Emma Diduch, Gus Hollberg, Michael Laterza, Ailec Wu and Bryce Colson show off the Scholastic Bowl Team's Conference 36 Championship trophy.

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