

GOH

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he had to fill in for one of his classmates. "At the end I felt like my parents were proud of me," the 5-year-old said. "My parents said I did a great job."

The students began practicing for the production right after Halloween, according to their teachers.

"We've been doing a Christmas show for about the last 15 years," said Janet Ghannam who teaches kindergarten at the school. "The music teacher finds a different musical for us to do each year."

Each child in the production had a speaking part and some even had solos.

"We make it so each child gets five minutes in front of the microphone," Ghannam said. "We also sell a videotape of the show that the parents can purchase if they want."

Sarah Kuderka, 5, said she received flowers after the show from her grandma and

"I got a rose and a big batch of white, pink and purple flowers," she said. "I got them because I did a good job. When I got home I put them in a vase."

Alex Kapral and Hannah Yanovich, both 5, played the parts of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Yanovich said having a husband wasn't very good, but she liked wearing her dress with a red belt and sliver sparkles on it.

Kapral's lone complaint about portraying the man in the red suit was that he was too hot during the performance.

Elizabeth Garra, a kindergartener at Gate of Heaven, said her favorite part of performing in the play was singing because she is good at it and has a beautiful voice.

Preschooler, Brooke Evelock, 3, said she also liked the singing because she has a princess voice.

"I was nervous to go on stage because I was afraid," she said.

Aside from performing for the school and families of the students, the kindergarten class also performed for retired nuns at the Mercy Center in Dallas. They gave them Christmas cards, as well.

"We take them to spread holiday cheer," said Heather Feher who also teaches kindergarten. "They really enjoyed it. You can see the smiles on their faces after it's over."

Ghannam said the overall purpose of the play is to involve the families and the community.

"The children always come through on the night of the show," she said. "The kids worked hard and I think our next step is going to be Broadway."



Cassandra Konopki and Hunter Resavage play the roles of Mary and Joseph, respectively, during Gate of Heaven's annual program. In the background are Emily Blaum and Alyssa Dragon.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Matt Fromel, Ryan DeRemer, Bryan McDonnel, Michael Morrison, Lewis Oley, Matthew Ruch, David Kopicki and John McCarthy sing during the special music program while Matthew Slavoski plays the piano.



Three Kings Connor Maloney, Michael Caravaggio and Andrew Graboski bring gifts to the manger while Jake Adonizio plays one of the sheep.

AYERS, SPENCER NAMED STUDENTS OF THE BUILDING



Ross Elementary School recently named its Student of the Building for November. Amanda Ayers was named the primary Student of the Building, while Cayle Spencer was named the intermediate Student of the Building. Winners and nominees for the award, from left, first row are Savannah Purdy, Ayers, Emily Carey, Olivia Vasey and Amanda May. Second row: Sarah Bedford, Lacey Miller, Emily Johns, Anna DeFranco, Shane Kreller, Kayla Carrera, Mikayla Weston, Chris Herrick and Spencer.

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