

Take Your Teacher to Work Day

Music and Acting and Fun, Oh My!

Kathy Abney has been a teacher for 22 years, the last seven of them at H. S. Moody Elementary in Bradenton Florida. This year has been one of change for Kathy, filled with the sweet sound of success. Having always loved music, Kathy completed her certification last summer and is now the school's music teacher. Finding herself surrounded by instruments, music, and students eager to learn is exactly where she wants to be. The icing on the cake?

Thanks to the Suncoast Workforce Boards **Take Your Teacher to Work Day** in partnership with the School District of Manatee County Adult, Career and Technical Education Department, Kathy recently shadowed Kenneth Erickson and Dean Anthony of Manatee Community College's Neel Performing Arts Center.

The day started early with a brief tour of Neel Auditorium led by Kenneth H. Erickson, Jr., the theatre manager and program manager for MCC. After the tour, Kathy observed a drama class conducted by Professor Anthony. Here, students learned the finer points of theatre appreciation and viewing scenes from great plays. The day passed by in a flurry of activity. Kathy attended a vocal diction class with emphasis on voice projection during acting scenes. Kathy was once a vocal performance major before switching to elementary education and was surprised to discover the parallels between vocal music and the spoken word on stage. She also learned about set design, where the process of creating an entire set is accomplished by using only refrigerator boxes and paint, an art form perfected by Mr. Erickson. Kathy returned to MCC in the evening to observe a blocking rehearsal where the actors matched their actions to the performed scene. Overall, she enjoyed a fabulous, fun, and informative day.

Kathy returned to school eager to integrate this exciting and newfound knowledge into the music curriculum. She planned to emphasize students expressing themselves correctly so as not to harm their voices. She will incorporate music into class plays to enhance dramatic presentation. She hopes to take set building and maximum utilization of the stage to a new level. After Kathy Abney's participation in **Take Your Teacher to Work Day**, the Moody Elementary Spring Concert will be a production worthy of Broadway!

