

## Introducing PRCS's Theater Workshop

### Brought to the Arts Academy Students by the Booster Club and GIFT Funds!

Over the past 30 years, study after study has confirmed the importance of integrating arts education into the classroom. Statistics show that children who consistently participate in rigorous arts education are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, especially math, science and language arts.

The theater enrichment curriculum at Porter Ranch Community School will address LAUD's arts education objectives for K-2, including creative play, storytelling, pantomime, collaboration, improvisation, story dramatization and tableaux. The curriculum also aligns with Common Core benchmarks for speaking and listening; integration of knowledge and ideas; presentation of knowledge and ideas; and English language arts.

From an early age, children have a naturally keen sense of drama and storytelling, often expressed through imaginative play. They create characters and stories to make sense of their world, to explore new thought and feelings, and to understand those who are different from them. Theater education provides an opportunity for children to take their natural ability to pretend and build this into more complex skills. Theater education has proven to enhance oral and written communication; critical thinking and problem solving; collaboration and cooperation; self-confidence and self-esteem. (*National Standard for Arts Education: What Every Young American Should Know and Be Able to Do in the Arts*)

Theater education gives children training and practice meaningful communication, which is increasingly valuable for a generation that spends a great deal of time focusing on screen, large and small. Theater helps students feel more comfortable speaking in public. It gives them confidence in

Traci Mariano is a professional director and theater educator based in Los Angeles, CA. Traci currently designs and teaches innovative K-5 theater enrichment workshops in LA schools. She also works as a script consultant and runs a production company with her husband who is a television writer and director.

Ms. Mariano offers Porter Ranch Community School an innovative enrichment curriculum based on theater games and interactive, performance-driven, hands-on learning. This curriculum builds on the work of Viola Spolin as well as other leaders in theater education. Ms. Spolin is widely known for her pioneering work in codifying theater games into theater pedagogy and a teaching philosophy that has influenced four generations of students and theater artists of all ages.

Ms. Mariano has and will continue to tailor the Porter Ranch curriculum to support specific goals for classroom learning shared by K-2 teachers. In general: Each theater workshop will begin with physical and vocal warm-ups designed specifically for these age groups (K-2). Through theater games and performance-driven activities, students will acquire basic acting and theater vocabulary. They will use the same tools that actor use to communicate stories, ideas and emotions. They will explore the process of creation through collaboration. The eighth and final workshop day will be an open classroom demonstration and parents will be invited.