Elena Malpica-Vargas made a movie Tuesday.

Not a feature film, not a documentary, not even a short. In the end, the final product was less than 10 seconds long but it featured characters battling and stumbling and Malpica-Vargas loved it.

“We got to explore, just have fun with it — fighting and saving people and fun,” the fifth-grader said.

The filmmaking and storytelling done Tuesday in both Keri Pugno and Sheila Chako’s fifth grade classrooms at Gravenstein Elementary School were part of lesson one of three in the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts’ “Artists in the Schools” program.

Next month, four classes of fifth-graders — two from Gravenstein, one from Liberty Elementary and one from Luther Burbank Elementary — will go to the performing arts center to see the musical “Four Score and Seven Years Ago” about an unlikely friendship forged in the wake of the Civil War.

The “Artists in the Schools” program brings artists into select classrooms for a series of lessons that expound upon themes from select performances that students see during field trips.

In the current three-lesson segment, students will create on iPads short stop-motion films that will be screened after the performance of “Four Score and Seven Years Ago.”

Under the tutelage of Jessica Ruskin, education director at the Charles M. Schulz Museum, students will be instructed on plot, setting and characters. Their final piece must reflect a real event from history.

“They are making their history curriculum come alive for other people and for themselves,” she said.

Focusing on lessons from the play in different media allows students who may have different aptitudes to access the material in a variety of ways, she said.

“Someone may be very visually oriented and the performance just moves them and that’s it, and that’s wonderful. But maybe for someone else, it’s the hands-on experience,” she said.

The hands-on experience has been a key component of “Artists in the Schools” since the program was formalized in 2006 after years of less structured outreach programs.

Approximately 40 percent of the $37,000 annual operating cost is
YOU’RE INVITED

Music For Schools Instrument Drive

What: Donate a musical instrument to be refurbished and loaned to local students, so they can participate in their school’s band or orchestra program.

When: Saturday, May 10, 11am - 3pm

Where: Montgomery Village in the Village Court
A free community event sponsored by Montgomery Village

Music: Enjoy performances throughout the day from local school bands, including Elsie Allen High School, Healdsburg High School, Kenwood Elementary, and more!

Can’t make it? If you can’t attend the event but want to donate an instrument, call Chrystie Prokopakis at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts at 707.800.7504 or cprokopakis@wellsfargocenterarts.org.

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Artists in the Schools

Continued from cover

covered by the Community Foundation Sonoma County, and the remaining expense is covered by the center’s general operating budget, said Kyle Clausen, director of marketing and communications.

“My goal is that they are making history fun and alive,” Pugno said Tuesday as her students at Gravenstein made their way through stations of creating zoetrope strips, thaumatrope flip pictures and stop-motion films.

The final project will focus students on creating a piece of art that follows the historical theme.

“It’s important that it does fit — they are not stand alone art projects,” Pugno said.

Even better, she said, is for students to learn from people other than their regular classroom teacher and through different media — computers, drawing and collaborating.

“Learning does not have to just be ‘Read a book, answer questions,’” she said. “There are other ways to demonstrate competence, to demonstrate excellence.”

The small groups allow students to take academic risks, Chako said. Trying out an idea on one or two peers isn’t as intimidating as raising your hand in the middle of class, she said.

“Allowing them to create a scene, draw — it will make them absorb that social studies content better,” she said. “Plus, it’s different than what we do in class. Instantly they are excited. It takes learning to another level.”

Press Democrat Staff Writer Kerry Benefield writes an education blog at extracredit.blogs.pressdemocrat.com. She can be reached at 707.526.8671, kerry.benefield@pressdemocrat.com or on Twitter @benefield.
Showcase your Students’ Work

Wells Fargo Center for the Arts has a long history of presenting visual arts in addition to performing arts. Since 2008, the Center has dedicated exhibit space solely to feature artwork from local students. This work is displayed on the upstairs landing leading to our administrative offices.

During a time in which the arts have been visibly cut from school budgets, it is refreshing and encouraging to see works created by students in grades ranging from kindergarten through high school. Some of the work exhibited is created purely as “art for art’s sake” and some are part of an arts integrated lesson aligning with standards for art, plus another core subject such as math or social studies.

For example, the photo at right is an example of a standards-based project from a kindergarten class. Students explored their community, discussed how they fit in their community, and observed people’s differences and similarities over the course of the lesson.

We invite submissions from teachers to exhibit student work on a year-round basis. To submit work from your school or classroom, contact Tracy Sawyer, Arts & Outreach Programs Manager, at 707.800.7529 or tsawyer@wellsfargocenterarts.org.

We also invite you to explore the latest exhibit while at the Center—whether you’re coming to an event or make viewing student art a special outing, take some time to enjoy an ever-changing exhibit of inspired works from our community’s talented young artists.
Sneak Peek: 2014-15 School Shows

Have fun and learn a lot, too!
We have more than 20 outstanding performances planned in 2014-2015 geared to specific grade levels, with educational and entertaining experiences for students pre-kindergarten through high school. Plus, all shows align with your overall teaching objectives using Common Core Curriculum. This is just a sneak peek at what's to come!
*Program information and dates are subject to change.

Coming Soon!
Look for our Education Brochure and order form available in early August. Visit wellsfargocenterarts.org later this summer to view the final schedule and download program materials, including study guides.

Education programs are on-sale August 13 at 9:00am!

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Schoolhouse Rock Live!
by Childsplay

Friday, October 10, 2014
Based on the hit Saturday morning cartoon series, the show that taught history, grammar, math, and more explodes onto the stage with songs updated for a whole new generation!

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Thomas Edison: The Wizard of Menlo Park
by TheatreworksUSA

Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Meet the greatest inventor of all time in this interactive one-man production. Learn about Edison’s early years and follow his life story as audience members are invited to recreate pivotal moments of invention.

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The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites
by Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

Friday, October 24, 2014
The wonderful story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar’s metamorphosis into a beautiful butterfly; the fanciful account of Little Cloud’s travels through the sky, and the Mixed-Up Chameleon’s discovery of his own unique nature are all brought to life with imaginative large-scale puppetry.

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Peter Gros of Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom

Friday, November 7, 2014
Gros of “Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom”—currently airing on Animal Planet—introduces exotic animals to audience members, while sharing inspirational stories from his work. Gros and his animal friends are popular guests on “The Tonight Show,” “Live with Kelly and Michael,” and many other talk shows.

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Posada Navideña
by Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes

Friday, December 12, 2014
Featuring traditional Mexican folkloric dance and music, this performance—back by popular demand—celebrates the wonderful folk culture of Mexico during the Christmas season.

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The Peking Acrobats®
Thursday, January 22, 2015
Back again in Sonoma County, China’s finest gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists, and tumblers transform 2,000-year-old athletic disciplines into a kaleidoscope of entertainment and wonder.

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Young Audiences of New York’s Literature to Life® production of The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Tuesday, December 2, 2014
in the East Auditorium
In this verbatim adaptation of The New York Times bestseller set during the Civil Rights Movement, a young girl’s search for the truth about her mother leads her to three beekeeping sisters and to discovering the true meaning of family.

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River North Dance Chicago
“Street Beat: Dance Through the Decades”

Thursday, January 29, 2015
This highly kid-acclaimed performance teaches students about the historical and social conditions of the 20th century and how the cultural underpinnings influenced dance. Each decade, from the roaring 1920s to the hip-hop '90s, is introduced with a narrative about major events, historical figures, fashion, and popular music.

Young Audiences of New York’s Literature to Life® production of
Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl
by Harriet Jacobs

Tuesday, February 3, 2015
Offer your students a connection to African-American History Month with this stage adaptation featuring verbatim portions of this celebrated slave narrative, including the author’s account of the seven years she spent hiding out as a fugitive in her grandmother’s attic as this story returns to our stage.

Super Scientific Circus

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
Using circus skills, magic tricks, boomerangs, bubbles, and bullwhips, this amazing duo returns to our stage, to demonstrate and explain complex scientific principles, including friction, inertia, static electricity, and magnetism.

The Mayhem Poets

Thursday, February 26, 2015
The Mayhem Poets are on a mission to change what society thinks about poetry with a unique, rhythmic style of spoken-word poetry. These theatrically-trained, comedic, lyrical virtuosos seamlessly blend raw elements of hip hop, theater, and stand-up comedy to reveal truths on contemporary issues.

Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
This Grammy-nominated, percussion driven, vocal ensemble’s mission is to help preserve and share the rich musical traditions of African American roots music. Their sound blends the deep south and the group’s own West African and Caribbean origins. In this special presentation for students, the audience will participate in making rhythms, singing, and clapping to the beat.

Laura Ingalls Wilder
by ArtsPower

Tuesday, February 24, 2015
Back by popular demand, this outstanding musical production chronicles the exciting adventures of the Ingalls family as they travel across the prairie in search of a little house to call home.

Junie B. Jones
by TheatreworksUSA

Friday, February 27, 2015
Junie B. Jones is back! This high-energy musical chronicles the adventures of June B., the outspoken, precocious first grader from the popular book series by Barbara Parks. Learn all about new friends, new glasses, and other angst-ridden situations that await the irrepressible Junie B.
School Shows

**GRADES 6-12**

Ed Meztger in *Close Encounters with Einstein*

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015**
Explore the wonders of science, math, technology, and engineering from the perspective of one of our world’s greatest thinkers. Back by popular demand, this performance features the only actor officially endorsed by the Einstein family.

**GRADES 1-6**

*Dino-Light*

*by Corbian Visual Arts and Dance in collaboration with Lightwire Theater*

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015**
This unique and visually dazzling performance showcases a world of glow-in-the-dark characters created out of neon light. With a cutting-edge blend of puppetry, technology and dance, the show tells the adventure of a friendly dinosaur named Darwin and the scientist who created him.

**GRADES K-4**

*The Teacher from the Black Lagoon & Other Stories*

*by TheatreworksUSA*

**Thursday, March 19, 2015**
An exciting new musical revue based on favorite contemporary children’s books, headlined by The Teacher from the Black Lagoon where we’ll follow Hubie’s imagination as he faces his comically horrific fears and discovers that his new teacher is pleasantly human after all. Plus we’ll see adaptations of Dogzilla; Grumpy Bird; I Want My Hat Back; Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse; Love Splat, Splat the Cat; and The Grasshopper and the Ant.

**GRADES 2-8**

*Repurposed Percussion*

*by Street Beat*

**Tuesday, April 10, 2015**
This high-energy explosion of urban rhythm and uplifting, inspiring music education returns to our Santa Rosa stage. This awesome duo brings together the elements of music, rhythm, and academic focus for your students!

**GRADES PK-3**

*Click, Clack, Moo*

*by TheatreworksUSA*

**Monday, May 4, 2015**
When Farmer Brown declares his farm a “tech-free zone” and stores his visiting granddaughter’s laptop in the barn, soon the shivering cows who use her computer to type messages and even go on strike! Will Farmer Brown give in to the animals’ demands? Find out in a hilariously “moooo-ving” musical about negotiation and compromise, based on the Caldecott Honor Book by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin.

Fancy Nancy The Musical *by Vital Theatre Company*

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015**
Nancy and her friends are performing in their very first show, and Nancy must bring fancy flair to her role in the show as a dreary, dull tree, even though it wasn’t the role that she wanted. Based on the popular children’s books by Jane O’Connor.

**GRADES PK-3**

**Revised: Education programs are on-sale August 13 at 9:00am**
Summer Camps

Missoula Children’s Theatre
A FREE Weeklong Theatre Residency
June 23 – 28, 2014
For students entering 1st – 12th grades

Audition to take part in a production of The Wizard of Oz! No advance preparation or experience is necessary. Those selected must be available each day, June 23 – 28, for rehearsals and performances.

Auditions: Monday, June 23, 2014 · 10am – 12pm
(Must be available for the entire two hour audition.)

The Wizard of Oz by Missoula Children’s Theatre
Saturday, June 28, 2014 · 2pm & 4:30pm in the East Auditorium
$13 adult • $9 child Tickets on sale now!

Draw It! Paint It! Sculpt It! Art Camp
July 7 – 11, 2014 · 1 – 5pm
For students entering 4th – 7th grades

Explore creativity and express your inner artist by working with 2D and 3D media, including painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture. No previous art experience is necessary.

$150 for the week

New Song Music Camp
July 28 – August 1, 2014 · 9am – 3pm
For students entering 3rd – 6th grades

This week-long camp emphasizes creativity and cooperation, while campers learn about and experiment with music. During the week, campers will make an instrument to take home, cut an original CD recording, sing, play, and receive a t-shirt as a souvenir! No previous musical experience is necessary.

$230 for the week

Thank You!

Wells Fargo Center for the Arts wishes to thank the following for their support of $1,000 or more for our Education Through the Arts programs since March 1, 2013.

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Gordon and Ann Blumenfeld
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