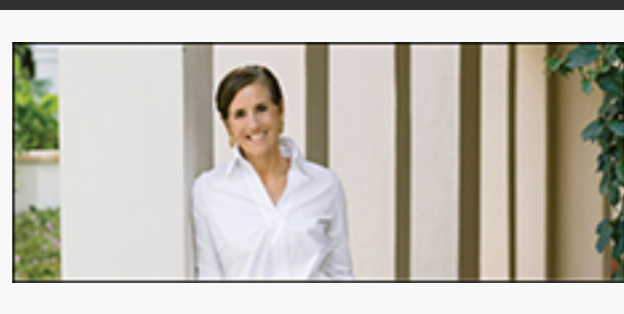
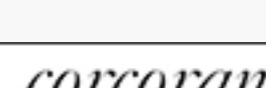


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LIFESTYLE

Palm Beach school news: Musical productions close out the year at Palm Beach Day, Rosarian and Greene schools

Cindy Thuma Special to the Daily News Published 5:02 a.m. ET June 9, 2022



Greene School's Agrabans prepare to defend their city against Jafar in a production of "Aladdin." Courtesy Of The Greene School

It took a while — almost two years, to be exact — but the show(s) went on.

Palm Beach Day Academy, Rosarian Academy and The Greene School all produced musicals at the end of a busy but COVID-altered school year.

The Greene School presented its production of "Aladdin Jr." at the Helen K. Persson Hall at the Kravis Center for the Arts. Palm Beach Day Academy and Rosarian Academy each presented "Seussical the Musical" in the performance venues at their respective campuses.

Getting back on stage and in front of audiences was just the tonic for the pandemic-weary young thespians.

"Everyone was excited to be part of the play," said Blakeslee Krusen, 13, a PBDA student. "I played JoJo; it was really fun and I really enjoyed it. It was really nice to include everybody in the play."

Connor Marr, PBDA's upper school drama teacher, chuckled as he agreed. "Everyone's just had so much energy," he said.

Rosarian Academy's theater arts director Robert Sherman reminded the audience how excited the young actors were: "It's our first production since 'Mary Poppins' in 2019," he said.

COVID restrictions forced drama teachers to try new approaches to allow for social distancing yet permit interaction. Marr, for example, tried having his fourth-grade students learn monologues. Once restrictions were being lifted, student thespians could operate with greater freedom and some students who hadn't participated in acting got bitten by the bug.



Blakeslee Krusen Submitted

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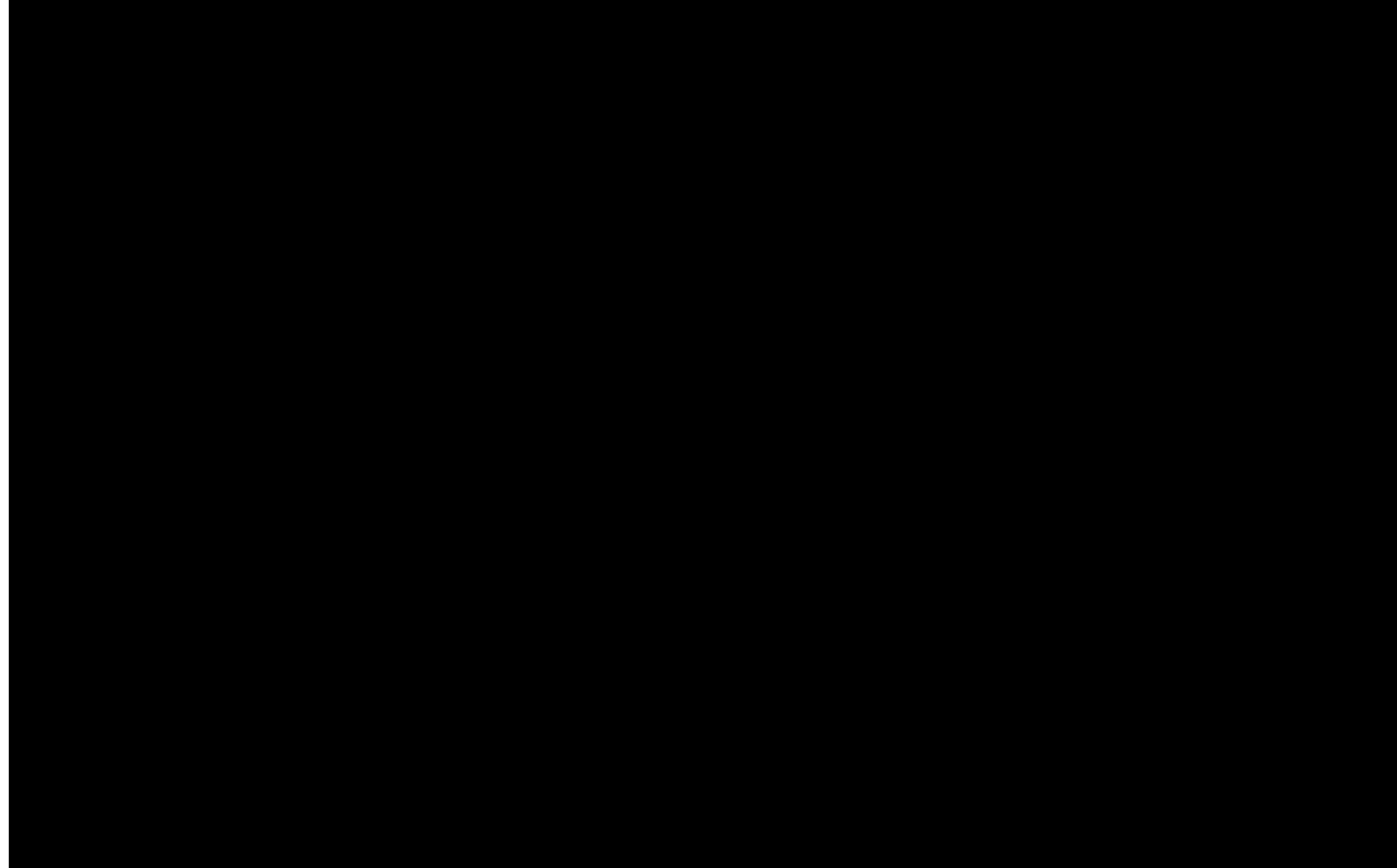
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"There was an overwhelming amount of interest to be a part of the musical theater program," said Courtney Demri, director of The Greene School's musical theater program.

For the "Aladdin Jr" production, "There were 34 students in the main ensemble cast," she said. "On top of that, there were six to eight more students who wanted to be in the afterschool program but unfortunately signed up past deadline. Forty students is a quarter of our student population. In comparison, our previous productions had 20 to 22 students in the main ensemble cast."

PBDA teacher named Dwyer Award recipient

On May 10, Annette Johnson, a music and drama teacher at Palm Beach Day Academy, was one of seven educators selected from a field of 25 finalists for 2022 Dwyer Awards for Excellence in Education, presented for the first time in two years.



Annette Johnson accepts her award during the Dwyer Awards for Excellence ceremony at the Kravis Center on May 10. She won in the category Middle School Education. THOMAS CORDY/THE PALM BEACH POST

The award, presented to teachers in public and private schools by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County Foundation, is named in honor of William T. Dwyer, former vice president of Pratt and Whitney's Government Products Division, who worked throughout the state to promote excellence in teaching and educational programs. Dwyer died at 58 in 1985.

Recipients are selected from categories of elementary school, middle school, senior high school, student advancement and career education and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Each recipient receives \$3,500 and a crystal flame award. The 21 finalists are recognized with framed certificates and a \$500 check.



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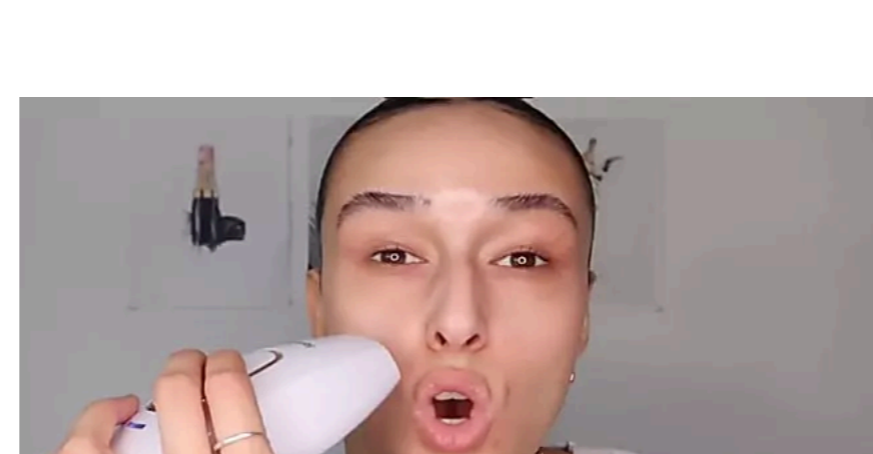
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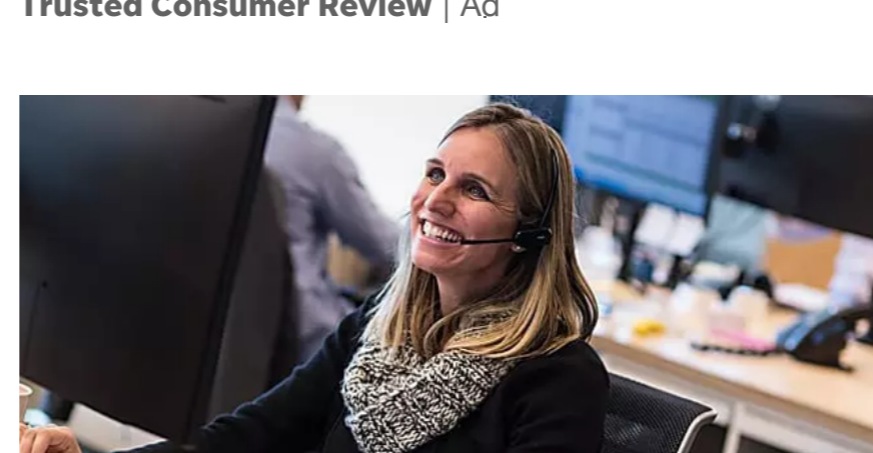
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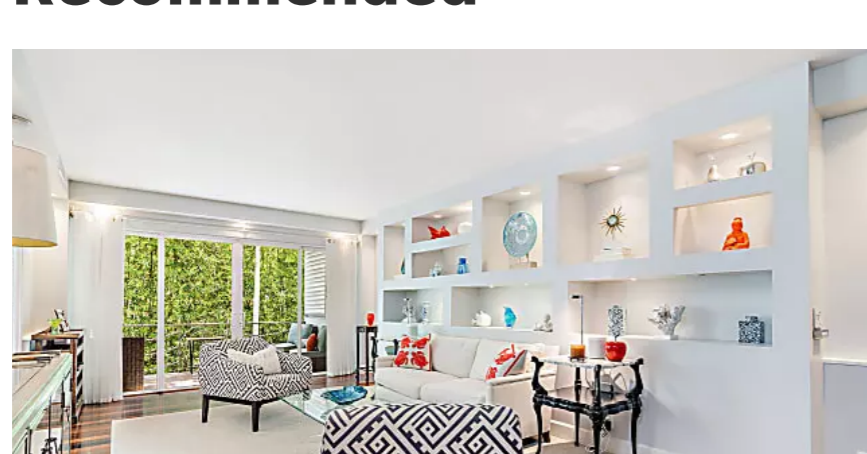
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