



News

Lights, camera, action: CSA students to lampoon, learn from news with Web newscasts

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Special feature to appear on 'C-T' Web site

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Children in a Community School of the Arts class are learning how to write newscast scripts, use cameras, direct and edit their materials.

The newscast will appear on the *Chronicle-Tribune's* Web site beginning today, with a new episode appearing each week, said CSA Executive Director Mark Fauser. The newscast will poke fun at real-life news and be called the Comical Tribune.

The kids taped their first newscast Thursday, and they said they were having fun exercising their creative and learning how to work cameras.

"We've done a lot of different stuff," Connor Moritz, 8, said. "Sometimes we write our own scripts. I think I wrote one. We just put our minds together."

Sophie Orrell, 9, said she wrote a fictional story about her and her cousin getting lost in an airport and her cousin hiding in a suitcase.

Caroline Wickes, 12, said producing a news cast provides a great opportunity to be creative.

"I like being able to give input and come up with my own characters," she said. "I wanted to do a Valley Girl voice. I don't get to act stupid and dumb in real life, so it's nice to come here and be somebody else."

Emma Temple, 8, said she acted and worked the cameras during the first newscast.

"It was fun," she said, referring to learning how to use the cameras, "because we never get to use cameras in our house."

Jen McAbee-Reher, 9, said working the cameras was hard.

"It's pretty confusing because to make it go up, you have to push it down, and to make it go down, you have to push it up," she said. "Everything else is normal."

Fauser said the work the children are doing is impressive.

"They're fantastic," he said, referring to the kids. "It's amazing what they're doing."

While the students are concentrating on world news now, Fauser said he wants them reading the newspaper so they can eventually poke fun at local stories and businesses. He also wants the kids to produce a live newscast in the future, so they can experience the pressure, he said.



Members of CSA, from top, Brittany Southworth, Austin Hendricks and Jennifer McAbee-Reher work the controls Thursday. Mark Fauser / For the Chronicle-Tribune

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