

AIMS Stages Environmental Themed Pantomime – The Selfish Shellfish

The Australian International School Malaysia (AIMS) Middle School students staged a pantomime titled “The Selfish Shellfish” on 18th November 2010. Originally written by English playwright David Wood, the pantomime emphasized audience participation and reminded the audience about the effects of oil pollution and how fragile our ecosystems are.

The students wore elaborate head pieces depicting the different main characters of the rockpool dwellers and amused the audience with their comedic performance. Rockpool refugees, Starfish and her young nephew, Urchin, together with the residents Mussel, the Giant Anemone and the cantankerous Old Hermit Crab, coped reasonably well with their insecure existence – until Seagull brought them warning of a possible catastrophe: the Great Slick! The audience joined the battle with the rockpool residents against Great Slick and his henchman, Sludge. For the finale, the cast members came together to sing a melancholic song titled “When Will We Learn” as the play came to an end. However, the strong message of the effects of oil pollution on sea life and all the ecosystems of the world lingered on long after.

The music for the play was written and played by AIMS’s Performing Arts teacher, Jon Suffolk. Proceeds from the sales of tickets to the show went towards AIMS’s Matilda Project, to help rural children of Sabah access primary education.

