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EDUCATION

2007 Showcase of schools

By [Elizabeth Gabriel](#)

(Updated Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 6:41 PM)

The Yosemite High School gym was alive with the sounds, sights, smells and tastes of education Thursday as the 2007 Showcase of Schools showed what's happening in classrooms all over the Mountain Area.

Laura Jeffris is new to Oakhurst and her son was performing as part of the Vision Arts Kids Kwire. "This is wonderful," she said of the showcase. "It's so nice to be in a small community with so many opportunities."

As children performed -- Katelyn Suderman's recitation of "Jabberwocky" was particularly "brillig;" she really got into those "slithy toves," "calloohs" and "callays" -- friends and family watched and applauded heartily. There was singing, dancing, flute playing, poetry and even a jazz duo.

Around the perimeter, displays were being scrutinized by not just parents, but students from schools not their own.

Matthew Baker of Mountain Home Charter School was behind the Sierra Tel book giveaway table.

"We have given away a good amount, I would say," he intoned in a most serious way. At the YHS Culinary Arts display and sale, Whitney Williamson and Christina Mudrick, both juniors, were singing the praises of the brand new program. They and their classmates made the goodies for sale.

A toss-off is coming up in Fresno where chefs from the program compete for best salad. "You can twist the basic ingredients, and you get points for eye-appeal," said Whitney. Dana White, whose T-shirt read "peer mediator" was at the YHS peer mediation and

Challenge Day display.

"I love the mediation program," she said and talked about how good it makes her feel to be doing something important for her school and her fellow students.

Color and joy were everywhere. Cheery penguins and snow-covered trees greeted guests to Coarsegold Elementary's displays of projects and Rivergold had a branch full of bright butterflies.

The whole thing was summed up by Makayla Jeffris, who is just 3 years old. She was dancing.



Makayla Jeffris, 3, does a little dance to celebrate her brother's performance in the 2007 Showcase of Schools Thursday in the Yosemite High School gym. That's her mom, Laura, keeping an eye on her. The family is new to the area and loves it here.
Elizabeth Gabriel photo





Whitney Willianson and Christina Mudrick, both juniors at Yosemite High School, are having a ball in the school's new culinary arts program.

Elizabeth Gabriel photo



Kriszti Mendonca becomes the dread Jabberwock monster for her son, Ian, as they listen to a recitation of "Jabberwocky" by Katelyn Suderman of Oakhurst Elementary School. Jessica Rudd, Maya Mendonca and Cecelia Garcia, from left, are in the next row.

Elizabeth Gabriel photo



Emily Anderson, a Mountain Home Charter School first-grader from Mariposa, takes a second look at the visible-insides display at the Showcase of Schools. Besides the human, there reptiles, with a handy guide to what was what on their revealed bodies.

Elizabeth Gabriel photo



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