

# Play focuses on bullying, violence prevention

BY CHAZ HOLMES  
*The Courier-Herald*

With kids back in school, there are the chances of arguments and conflicts arising, but a traveling theater group hopes to present students with advice on how to avoid and prevent violence and bullying.

Crestwood Elementary School in Bonney Lake will receive a performance which presents a lesson on bullying and violence prevention Sept. 28.

The group putting on the play is Taproot Theatre's Road Company, which formed in 1985 to demonstrate social issues throughout the Pacific Northwest. The group's performances focus on the issues facing students and presents methods of handling the topics and this year, the group's focus is bullying and violence.

"Super School" is the name of the new play put on by Taproot Theatre at Crestwood Elementary and it tells the story of a group

of students with special abilities.

The story focuses on the fictional school of Asteroid Academy, in which students have superpowers. Unfortunately, the first rule of school is no superpowers are allowed on the playground.

Trouble arises when a student named Danrelle uses her powers of invisibility to steal another student's toy and attempts to cause her express her anger. It's up to the students of Asteroid Academy to determine the right way to respond.

The group states the goals of the performance is to teach students to recognize problem solving skills, friendship and social skills, empathy, emotional management and bullying prevention.

Taproot Theatre provides teachers with resources to engage the students in discussion of the lessons in the performances and the group's actors are available for classroom visits.

*To comment on this story view it online at [www.blscourierherald.com](http://www.blscourierherald.com). Reach Chaz Holmes at [cholmes@courierherald.com](mailto:cholmes@courierherald.com) or 360-802-8208.*

01/01/09 01:11:11 PM