

ACTIVE READING: TRIX BRUCE INVOLVES AUDIENCE IN STORY TELLING/A7



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Herald photo/Steve Heeb

Trix Bruce performed stories in sign and with expressive gesture for both deaf and hearing students at Zeiger Elementary School June 7.

Showing — to tell a story

Trix Bruce offers program to appeal to deaf and hearing students

BY SHANON BURKE
of The Herald

The students at Zeiger Elementary School — both deaf and hearing — got the chance to learn how to fingerspell the word “golf” and watch one of their teachers use gestures to show how to make a pizza.

Performer Trix Bruce, a deaf storyteller and author came to the school as the featured guest at an assembly.

Sonia Maldonado, a district interpreter coordinator and American Sign Language teacher, said she has attended several of Bruce’s workshops before and was interested in bringing her to the school. The other teachers agreed, Maldonado said, and worked to bring Bruce in.

Zeiger Elementary is home to hearing stu-

dent deaf and hearing students.

“We try to have activities where everybody can join in,” Maldonado said.

Bruce herself said — speaking through an interpreter — that she likes to get all the students involved in her assemblies.

“So many kids are just loving this,” Bruce said. “It’s so important to see the kids working together.”

During the assembly, which Bruce signs her way through while an interpreter speaks for the hearing audience, she begins with personification.

“What does that mean?” Bruce asked the audience. “It means becoming the object itself.” She then proceeded to “become” a golf ball through her actions.

Bruce also taught the audience how to fingerspell certain words such as golf, tree and

TRIX BRUCE

For more information about performer and storyteller Trix Bruce visit her Web site at www.trixbruce.com or e-mail at info@trixbruce.com.

Gestures were also used as part of the performance. Bruce called sixth-grade teacher Gail Lovering up to show her — using only gestures — how to make a pizza. Using dramatic gestures and funny facial expressions Bruce followed the directions Lovering showed her. Lovering said she had fun, but that she thinks her students enjoyed her performance more.

At the end of the assembly the audience had a chance to ask questions. Amid queries about where she lived and when she started one student asked what her favorite thing