

The Paradise Center Presents

Pearl Ferlan Plains Elementary School Spotlight on the Arts



Interviewed by
Jo Carpenter

“Spotlight on the Arts” by The Paradise Center honors and encourages students in the arts by highlighting their talent and acknowledging the support they receive through their schools and teachers.

Pearl Ferlan is an 11-year-old 6th grade student in Ms. Jirasko’s class at Plains Elementary. Her class performed an original play at Christmas time, written by Ms. Jirasko, about Krampus, the Christmas devil from European folklore, who punishes naughty children and is said to accompany Santa Claus. Pearl played a grumpy old witch named “Babayaga.”

Elementary principal, Kevin Meredith said that Pearl was perfect in that part and stole the show. She has always loved to sing, and, according to her mother, was born an actress. Pearl played the part of Tiger Lily in the Missoula Children’s Theater production of *Peter Pan* a couple of

years ago. She especially liked the part in the play where she stood on a chair saying her lines.

Pearl’s older sister, Ashley, who is in choir and drama, has inspired Pearl to sing and act. The movie, *Leap!* - about a ballerina in Paris - also inspired Pearl in her singing and dancing. Her favorite singer is Billie Eilish.

Pearl’s advice to other students interested in singing and acting is to “Go with the flow and have fun.” She hopes to continue to act in plays and perform songs in the coming years and to eventually have her own recording studio. Pearl also enjoys sports (cross country, track, basketball, rock climbing) and is taking dance lessons and plans to go to a dance competition in Spokane in the spring.

Be on the lookout for Pearl in future plays and concerts!