Nathan Bishop School DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS

"A Christmas Carol"

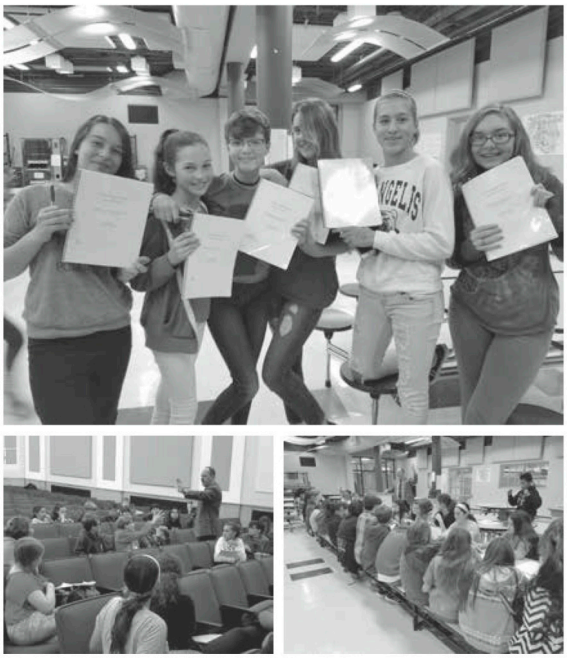
Submitted by: **Beth Adamo**

Just in time to ring in the holiday season, the Nathan Bishop Middle School Drama Club is pleased to present Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, playing December 8-11, 2016.

Now in its fourth year, the Nathan Bishop Drama Club is a popular program offered through the Providence After School Alliance (PASA), whose mission is to provide quality after-school learning opportunities for Providence youth. As part of this extraordinary, extracurricular experience, Drama Club students are also collaborating with Brown University theater students. "Through workshops with Brown, our students will be able to block and stage the first two pages of the script—and one of their scenes will be used in the actual play," explains Glenn Zienowicz, program director. "This input by students into the creative process helps our program meet RI Dept. of Education requirements while boosting their sense of ownership in what they're doing."

Zienowicz, a professional actor and the performing arts teacher at Nathan Bishop, has a performed *A Christmas Carol* eight times and has directed it twice. "Because I'm so close to the work, I found myself joking that I could do it in my sleep," he says. But, after watching a TED Talk by well-known director Julie Taymor, famous for her work on *The Lion King*, Zienowicz found himself inspired to look at the play differently. "Taymor's way of working was to thematically boil down the show to one ideogram, or picture. I was fascinated by this notion of an overriding visual idea governing the play," he explains. "So I decided to approach our production of *A Christmas Carol* in a similar way. The overriding theme is metamorphosis because Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes one of the most radical polar attitude changes of any character you can find."

With the image of the monarch butterfly emerging from a chrysalis as the ideogram, the idea of metamorphosis will be subtly woven throughout



the show. "What's important is that it gives the students this great overarching idea that influences everything we do."

Equally inspiring Zienowicz's decision to put on this play this year were his students, many who are now in their third year of Drama Club. "We have a really great team of kids who are ready, willing, and able to take this show on," he gleams. "I'm also excited that this is an extremely magical show. Viewers can look forward to special effects, snow, live music, amazing costumes created by Everett Hoag and his students in the Costume Studio, another PASA program—and much more."

A Christmas Carol is playing at 7 p.m. on December 8, 9, and 10 and at 2 p.m. on December 11 in the Nathan Bishop Middle School Auditorium, 101 Sessions Street, Providence. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children, students, and seniors available at the door. For more information, visit **facebook.com/NathanBishopDramaClub/.**

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