

CELEBRATING THE NUTCRACKER



Castwell Kids with Ms. Janelle Carr was a resounding success! We had 23 children (grades K-4) participate as performers in Canadian Playwright Deborah Solberg's *The Nutcracker Jr.*, and 8 teens (grades 7-12) participate as performance mentors and Backstage Badgers. Growth was evident in many of the children and teens who participated in this program. We observed children growing in speech, vocal projection, musicality, and stage presence. We observed them growing in capacity to focus, wait for their turn, cheer on others, and take personal responsibility for their learning. Our teens developed confidence in their own voices and sharing their stage experience with their young charges. At the theatre, they gained technical skills as they supported with props, sets, costumes, lighting, and even operating the scrim and front curtain. Thank you to Ms. Janelle and all our volunteers!

Ongoing Opportunities

Improv Development Group is a biweekly Sunday evening group for learning together in a supportive space. No previous improv or acting experience necessary. **Exciting News:** Beginning in January 2026, this program will be open to any participants **ages 15+**.



Castaways D&D Club (18+) and the **Castaways Jr.** program (10+) continue to be immensely popular in our community, with groups meeting regularly at various times throughout the month to enjoy some collaborative storytelling led by experienced Game Masters. Contact us to join a session!



School Of Rock: The Musical Castwell's first main stage, multigenerational musical has been successfully cast and our teams are ready to begin rehearsals in the new year! There are still opportunities to join some of the supporting production teams for this show if that is of interest. School of Rock is open to participants ages 12+. Performances are scheduled for mid-late May 2026.

More Events and Opportunities to Come!

Community Sponsorship Drive

Castwell & Company is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization whose operational funding comes in large part through charitable grants and financial partnerships with community stakeholders.

We are inviting local businesses, organizations, and individuals to partner with us in our ongoing mission to provide inclusive and accessible opportunities for creatives of all ages to find connection, inspiration, and development through the performing arts. For details on our sponsorship tiers and how to join, please visit our website at:

<https://castwell.ca/why-donate>

Be sure to check out our display at the Sandra Schmirler Walking Path this holiday season!

