

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



ARTS EXPRESS '97 provides creative outlet for special needs children

Contact:

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WATERLOO, Ontario - The third annual ARTS EXPRESS '97, an integrated arts camp for children with special needs aged six to 14, looks to the sea for this year's theme.

Groups of students named for lobsters, seahorses and dolphins will explore art, music and dance from **Monday, July 21 to Thursday, July 24, 1997** at the Rotary Centre, 500 Hallmark Drive in Waterloo.

"ARTS EXPRESS uses the creative arts for personal expression," Leslie O'Dell, organizer and co-ordinator of Wilfrid Laurier University's theatre program, says. "It is an opportunity for students to use music, movement and stories to express their personalities and feelings."

The thirty-six children enrolled will be working on painted backdrops, individual art, masks, music composition and their own dance creations around the "Under the Sea" theme. Their work will be presented at a special performance scheduled for Friday, **July 25, 1997, at the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall at Wilfrid Laurier University beginning at 1:30 p.m.** Of the thirty-six children, eight do not have special needs and will be helping the 15 university students that are part of the volunteer team.

The camp continues to grow in popularity. Twenty six students who enrolled in last year's camp have returned.

ARTS EXPRESS is a valuable community partnership that draws on the experience of Laurier's theatre and music therapy programs, the University of Waterloo's Carousel Dance Studio, the early childhood education program at Conestoga College, and the recreational therapy program at the Rotary Children's Centre.

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Note to media: Both Leslie O'Dell and Debra Martz Melanson of the Faculty of Music will be at the Rotary Centre July 21-24, and will be pleased to introduce you to the participants. Photographers are welcome: consent forms have been signed by the parents.