

**February 10, 2018**

**Pinehurst, NC**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Last year West Pine Middle School Musical Theater students explored the “darker side” of life with their stirring presentation of Fiddle on the Roof.

Not this year.

There is no serious message at the heart of this year’s spring musical. This year’s presentation is straight forward comedy. West Pine Middle School Musical Theater Team presents “Once Upon a Mattress. This rollicking comedy is an off-beat re-telling of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea. During its original Broadway run, the play made Carol Burnett a household name as Princess Winifred. Years later, she brought the production full circle with a turn as the Queen.

The plot of "Once Upon a Mattress" concerns a mythical king and queen who are looking for a mate for their son - Prince Dauntless. After dozens of candidates have failed the unfair tests devised by the queen, Winifred the Woebegone, a brash and unrefined princess from the far reaches of the kingdom appears on the scene.

West Pine Middle School’s production, featuring close to 60 students ranging from sixth through eighth grade, premieres at 7 p.m. Friday, March 9, with a second performance at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 10.

Students have been in rehearsal since early January. Directed by a tandem of veteran educators with a long history of collaborating on productions, the show has at its helm Executive Director Torin Wright, West Pine Middle, and Artistic Director/Charge Scenic Designer, Susan B. Herrick, a professor at

Fayetteville State University. This production also features a duo of student directors/choreographers, Claire Evans and Ayla Rodriguez. The set was constructed by craftsman Jim Morris, West Pine Middle School, and has been painted by numerous students and parents. The sound engineer is David Godsey of Extra Mile Audio, from Fayetteville and costumes are by Showboat Costumes and Collectibles, based in Southern Pines.

The project received support from the Arts Council of Moore County with funds from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

The show will be performed at the Pinehurst Elementary School Auditorium (100 Dundee Road, Pinehurst). Tickets at the door are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students. Children 5 and under are admitted free as are faculty members. Tickets can be purchased at discounted prices online by visiting <http://onceuponamattresswestpinemiddle.weebly.com>. For additional information,

please call the school at (910) 673-1464.