

“Foodplay” Featured at Frohardt

By Jason Sibert

Educators often use a variety of mediums to enrich the minds of young people.

And on April 29 Foodplay Productions used the medium of theater to deliver a message on good

health to students at Frohardt Elementary in Granite City. FP staged a play called “Foodplay.”

“We’re here to teach the kids about nutrition,” FP Stage Manager S.M. Payson said. “We’re going up against the messages of commercials they see everyday



Actors Tyson Savoretti (left) and Carlton Hall perform in a play called “Foodplay” at Frohardt Elementary on April 29.



Actor Tyson Savoretti

and the endorsements of celebrities. We want to teach these kids healthy habits.”

FP is in the middle of a nationwide tour that includes stops in the Midwest, the West, New England and the West Coast. The Illinois Soybean Association and Illinois Farm Bureau sponsored the production.

“I don’t think there’s much better entertainment than live entertainment,” Payson said on the strengths of the theater medium. “We’re not a head on a TV. We pass on a very personal message – ‘we want you to be healthy, we want you to eat right.’”

Actors Tyson Savoretti and Carlton Hall held the attention of Frohardt’s students for 45 minutes with a play that incorporated nutrition lessons, juggling, various costumes and audience participation. Savoretti played Coach who lectured Johnny Junkfood, played by Hall, on the importance of good eating habits and exercise. They stressed to their young au-



Frohardt Elementary students are entertained by the informative play.

dience that heart disease was our country’s No. 1 killer and that correct diet can help ward off the disease. During the act Savoretti and Hall displayed a food pyramid that promoted the consumption of whole grains, vegetables, fruits, milk, meat and beans – foods that were stressed throughout the play as keys to a well balanced diet.

The play used the familiar film motif of the mad scientist and his befuddled assistant to educate the young audience on healthy teeth. Savoretti and Hall created a room full of laughter when Savoretti, dressed as a scientist complete with the lab coat, and Hall, dressed as his assistant in a black

robe and pair of glasses with large eyes, used their colorful characters to stress the connection between healthy eating and healthy teeth.

Illinois Soybean Association Director at Large Ross Prough attended the performance.

“We are concerned with obesity in children and the problems it brings to diabetics,” Prough said. “We’re very happy to be supporting something like this.”

Frohardt kindergarten students Abbey Haggis, 6, and Isabella Brookser, 6, both said they liked the juggling portions of the show. ■