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CD Release

The hottest new recording artists in the North Boroughs aren't rock stars or pop divas, but readers from Avalon Elementary School who have been given an opportunity to present book reviews on the radio as part of The Saturday Light Brigade program hosted by Avalon resident Larry Berger on WRCT 88.3 FM. Pictured above during the release of a CD featuring

the reviews at last Saturday's Arts Odyssey are, from left: Berger; reviewer Ricky Caton and his mom, Barbara, from Avalon; school board member and arts promoter Shirl Reinhart, and Avalon Elementary principal Dr. Richard Stuemppes. Read more about the program and the Arts Odyssey on Page 13.

Photo by The Citizen

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Arts Odyssey Features "CD Release Party" For Student Readers



Literature took center stage at Northgate School District's Arts Odyssey held last Saturday at the high school. Among the displays and presentations celebrating all of the arts -- from dance and music to drama and drawing, and everything in between -- Avalon Elementary School students celebrated the release of a CD containing book reviews they have recorded for radio.

The reviews recorded by students in grades 3-6 are being featured each Saturday morning on the award-winning public radio program The Saturday Light Brigade (SLB), heard on WRCT 88.3 FM from 6 a.m. until noon. Host Larry Berger, a resident of Avalon, handed out CDs to those attending the Arts Odyssey.

"This project is particularly rewarding because the technology of radio -- a medium that stimulates the imagination like no other -- is being used by

young people for educational, enrichment and entertainment purposes, as well as to bring people together," Berger said.

That fits in perfectly with the SLB program, which features live acoustic music, on-air telephone calls from kids and adults, interactive puzzles and games, and special guests -- all intended to entertain and educate children and their families, with an emphasis on the participation of children.

"Kids need to hear other kids," Berger said.

The book reviews also can be heard on the SLB Web site, www.slbradio.com/reading.htm.

"Our students and parents couldn't be more excited about this project," said Avalon Elementary principal Dr. Richard Stuemppes.

The program was underwritten by a grant from the Dominion Foundation.

JOUSTING, featuring Northgate teachers and administrators, was one of the fun programs presented at the Arts Odyssey. Pictured at left are counselor Brian Talbert (at right) and teacher Tom Ewing. Superintendent Dr. Reggie Bonfield was the referee for the contests.

Photo by The Citizen