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Contact: Carol M. Goetz, Senior Development Officer
610.469.9236 x131 cgoetz@beaverrun.org (fax) 610.469.9758

High School readers and actors present *The Grapes of Wrath*

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The High School Literature Class at Camphill Special School in Glenmoore recently presented readings and scenes from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* before an appreciative audience of fellow students, teachers, coworkers, parents, and friends at the school's Rainbow Hall.

Under the tutelage of Kate Collier, the Literature Class read Steinbeck's timeless novel of the effects of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression on the Joads, a farming family from Oklahoma. The students effectively depicted the conflict between large, powerful forces and ordinary, powerless people facing injustice and lack of opportunity at every turn.

Not content to learn about the 1930's only, the class also drew parallels between the past and the current struggles of small farmers in the face of huge agriconglomerates. Drawing on their additional reading from *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser, the students brainstormed and presented their own ideas about what we all can do to support small, family farmers. Buying organic produce, shopping at local farmer's markets, purchasing local produce, and eating less fast food were just a few of their many suggestions.

After spring break the Literature Class will celebrate finishing their reading of Steinbeck's book by viewing the classic film presentation of the story.

Camphill Special School is a day and residential school for children with special needs and special potential. The Camphill ideal is to engage all the members of its life sharing community in meeting their own needs, as well as those of the community at large, to whatever extent their abilities allow.

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Photo caption: Students in the Camphill Special School Literature Class recently presented readings and scenes from *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck's classic novel of the Depression era.