

More than 400 public school students competed in the annual County track and field meet at C.M.L. Snider Public School on Thursday.

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PHOTO: KATHLEEN SABYAN

Primary school students sit waiting for the curtain to rise for the presentation of *Rocket and the Queen of Dreams* on Wednesday morning. More than 700 County students were able to enjoy the production which featured live actors, puppets and the use of shadow puppets, as seen below.

Things that go bump in the night

County kids experience the magic of live theatre

Peels of laughter, shrieks of horror and gasps followed by complete and riveting silence. More than 700 primary students from the County's schools exhibited these reactions during the presentations of the children's play *Rocket and the Queen of Dreams* last week.

The play features performances by live actors who use puppets and shadow theatre to tell the story of a little boy named Rocket who is afraid to go to sleep because of the monsters in his dreams.

Rocket and the Queen of Dreams is a play recommended for children from kindergarten to Grade four, but it contains universal themes. It takes children through the surreal world of Rocket's dreams, depicted using more than 200 shadow puppets. These puppets include monsters, motorcycles, flying watering cans, a hot dog truck, and the Queen of Dreams.

David S. Craig wrote and directed the play after going into schools and asking students about their dreams. Craig is also the artistic director of the Toronto - based *Roseneath Theatre*, which is the largest touring company in Ontario, producing original theatre for young people and families for 25 years.

The Festival Players of Prince Edward County and C.M.L. Snider Public School in

Wellington hosted the Roseneath Theatre touring company during its four-day run, with the hope that exposing young people to live theatrical productions at an early age to foster a life long love for theatre.

