

## **SHEF Opens the Curtain**

### **South Pacific preview party well-received**

SHEF transported the South Pacific to Belleville on April 26. That is, in the form of the “South Pacific” Happy Hour Preview Party, a sneak-peak at the Signal Hill School 8th grade’s 49th annual play production. The event took place at The Abbey in Belleville at a ticket price of \$25 that included appetizers and two drink tickets.

Based on the favorable feedback from the preview of the Class of 2013’s “Singing in the Rain” performed at the SHEF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, the Board decided to create a play preview event. SHEF member Beth Lenz, who co-chaired the preview party with fellow SHEF/fundraising committee members Jackie McCloskey and Lanna Boyles, called the event “fabulous.” “The preview brought together SHEF supporters from parents to teachers (even some retired teachers attended the event) to community members to SHEF board members,” Lenz said. “The event gave us another opportunity to let the community know what SHEF is all about.”

The event, which drew 64 attendees, kicked off with entertainment from the Ukaladies. More entertainment followed, setting the stage for the 8th graders. Overall, about a dozen students performed several numbers from “South Pacific”, which included both singing and dancing.

“The 8th graders were fantastic,” Lenz said. “All attendees enjoyed The Abbey, the food, the entertainment and the company of Signal Hill friends. Attendees had an opportunity to enjoy a preview of the 8th grade play, and all were very impressed with the students’ performance.”

Lenz praised The Abbey as well. “The Abbey was great to work with,” she said. “It was so nice to have the facility to ourselves and the service was terrific.”

SHS superintendent Suzette Lambert also enjoyed the preview party. “The first-ever SHEF-sponsored play preview party was a great success,” she said. “SHS students performed songs and dances from “South Pacific” and the audience was enthralled. We hope to make this an annual event, especially for the upcoming 50th anniversary of SHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade musicals. I hope everyone in the community and many alumni can attend the preview party and the play next year to see what a fabulous opportunity Signal Hill provides for the students.”

All in all, “South Pacific”----both the preview party and the production itself----helped serve as the appetizer for the 50th anniversary of the SHS play in 2015, for which Lenz said she expects a more extensive preview event.