

Winter Solstice Recitation for 7's

Jesse: Kit wanted to create this Gathering Center so the whole Arbor community could **be** together

Alia: **See** together

Jesse: Sing

Alia: Speak

Jesse, Alia: **and be heard.**

Jesse: Imagination, passion, and perseverance have brought us all to this moment

Alia: with months of setbacks, triumphs, and fundraising and maybe a little luck, too.

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Helen: For some, there's luck in a horseshoe, but it's also one way to describe the shape of this grand room

Kiko: The curves repeat, layer by layer, in the risers

Bennett: much like the outdoor amphitheater near the Loghouse.

Quincy: But the beauty of the outdoors is also here on the inside—from light-filled windows and exposed joinery

Gabe: to natural wood in these massive posts and beams.

Nicholas: Kit's husband Bill Hawkins designed the Gathering Center

Margot: And he made sure that this building echoed the style of his other structures on campus:

Ava: The Intermediate classrooms

Ollie: The Senior Building

Carly: and the Library.

Alumni parent Brian Ward's company, Skyward Construction, was hired to turn blueprints into reality

Ava: and a lot of turning was needed.

Ollie: Earth-turning, that is. The Primary Denners had a front row seat as the crew cleared the land and dug a very (Ollie), Very(Ollie and Carly) VERY (Ava, Ollie, Carly)...

Ava: large hole in the ground.

Kai: Kerry was the name of the excavator who made a friend of the Primary Denners.

Kai,cont.: The Primaries bought Cheezits for Kerry because they could see him munching his favorite snack from the Den's windows.

Matt: They wrote messages back and forth, taping them onto the Nester's windows.

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Amelia: But before that first handful of Cheezits OR shovel-full of dirt, many building permits had to be granted.

Ben: Clackamas County did NOT make it easy to attain them!

Eva: But Will Hawkins persisted and pressured at every turn...

Here, Max ("Will") and Aidan (Permits) battle it out, light saber style...music to accompany (Music softer for Levi's lines, signals slo-mo.)

Levi: There were setbacks and delays, and the process seemed to go SO slowly...(Slo-mo fighting, chair fussing-around continues in slo-mo, too)

Julia: But persistence paid off! Arbor was victorious, and the work could begin, leading us to this evening.

Willa: And leading us IN to this space is the beautiful landscaping. Steve Shone and Nick Seagraves labored to create a welcoming and attractive entrance, with benches and plantings that invite reflection and conversation.

Sadie: Thank you to the friends, families, and students who have made this magnificent building possible

***ALL: We couldn't have done it without you!***