

Labor Day is upon us...

Lucky MacDuck Day will include 'Peter and the Wolf' play

by Will Forgrave
Herald Staff Writer

Students from the Academy of Performing Arts in Alma will perform *Peter and the Wolf: A Musical Tale for Children* at the eighth annual Lucky MacDuck Community Day, which will be held at the newly named Highland Park (south of the Alma Public Library) at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 12.

The Francis Performing Arts Company, from the Academy of Performing Arts (APA), has been presenting *Peter and the Wolf: A Musical Tale for Children* by Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev to elementary schools for the past 15 years.

This year is the fifth cast to learn and share the classical piece, which the composer wrote to specifically introduce children to concert instruments.

This year's cast performed in the spring at Alma and St. Louis elementary schools, and this summer at Ithaca's Thompson Library summer reading series.

Performing once more during Lucky MacDuck Day are Natalie Walsh as Peter, with Kara Anderson, Emma Davis, Aubrey Griffith, Falyne Hudecz, Molly Carol Minnick, Abbey Olen, and Madison Seeley rounding out the cast. Academy of Performing Arts

Company dancers will also be helping with the children's activities during the day.

Lucky MacDuck activities include art exhibits, a variety of activities for children and the entertainment tent, which will feature other area performers. The day's activities conclude with the colorful yellow rubber duck race down the Pine River.

"Lucky MacDuck Day is a day of fun for the entire family, and is sponsored by the Pine River Arts Council," Kathleen Francis, APA Director said. "This is the primary PRAC fundraiser which raises grant money for local arts activities.

We enjoy supporting this fun event which helps fund other important arts events right here in our community."

The Academy of Performing Arts is a dance studio in Alma on 319 North Main Street, under the direction of Kathleen Francis. For more information on APA including classes, history and staff biographies, visit its online Web site at www.apafrancis.com.



Dancers from the Academy of Performing Arts in Alma will be performing Peter and the Wolf at Lucky MacDuck Community Day on Sept. 12. The dancers in the photo are: Kara Anderson, Emma Davis, Madison Seeley, Falyne Hudecz, Abbey Olen, Natalie Walsh, Molly Carol Minnick, Aubrey Griffith. (Photo by Kathleen Francis)