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Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at Gateway

Huntington – “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” will be presented on April 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. in the Gateway Performing Arts Center. Admission is $2 for senior citizens and students, $5 for adults. Anyone bringing a gently worn clothing item to donate to the Project 351 service project will receive a dollar off their admission price.

Based upon the children’s book of the same name by Roald Dahl, the play has been performed worldwide, as a musical, and in two motion films. Willy Wonka is offering a special raffle, in which five lucky winners can compete at the mysterious chocolate factory for a lifetime supply of candy. Charlie Bucket, who lives with his grandparents in a one-room shack, wins the final Golden Ticket inside a Wonka chocolate bar, to enter the contest. The five—and their chaperones—gather to tour the chocolate factory, where each contestant reveals their true personality and is given a moral lesson. All is not as it seems, as one by one the competitors are eliminated until only Charlie and his Grandpa Joe remain with Wonka. Even the prize is not as described!

The Gateway Junior High School cast members include Grace Grady as Willy Wonka, with Parker Atkin, Rebecca Austin, Lexi Cooper, Nathan Crane, Deishanet Crochiere, Emma Dana, Juliana Dickinson-Trenholm, Gia Gibson, Charlotte Kazalski, Gabby Larsen, Joe Lucardi, Dan McKellick, Madison Morgado, Makayla Pappas, Livia Shepard, Ashley Sullivan and Nick Symmons.

Siena Crane plays the bubble gum dance, and 6th grade Oompa Loompas include Rebecca Boszko, Brianna Kot, Grace Lamountain, Adrienne Marchetto, Kelsey Motyl and Azia Redick

Chloe McLeod is makeup and stage manager. Prop and costume assistance is provided by Jenna Kakimoto and students from the Junior High School after-school program.

Set reconstruction was completed by high school woodworking teacher Michael Harper. Canvas repair and painting was completed by parent Susan Kallerges. Scene design and painting is by junior high students Ava Auclair, Rebecca Austin, Hannah Coffey, A. J. Fopiano, Chloe McLeod, Madison Morgado and Sydney Webb, with high school painters Audrey Gamble, Meghan Wright, Chloe Otterbeck and Dana Britland.

The play is directed by Dawne Piers-Gamble, with assistant director Heather Dekarski.

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Photo (left) The cast of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” presented April 1 and 2 in the Gateway Performing Arts Center.