

The Missoula Children's Theatre and Southland Academy will be presenting Pinocchio March 20<sup>th</sup>. The tour team will be arriving on March 15 and will rehearse with the children each day after school. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, two performances will be presented at the Southland Gymnasium.

The Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT), the nation's largest touring children's theatre, has been touring extensively for 35 years now from Montana to Japan, and will visit nearly 1,300 communities this year with 47 teams of Tour Actor/Directors. A tour team arrives in a given town with a set, lights, costumes, props and make-up, everything it takes to put on a play...except the cast. The team holds an open audition and casts 50-60 local students to perform in the production. The show is rehearsed throughout the week and two public performances are presented on Saturday. All MCT shows are original adaptations of classic children's stories and fairytales . . . a *twist* on the classic stories that you know and love. Creativity, social skills, goal achievement, communication skills and self-esteem are all characteristics that are attained through the participation in this unique, educational project. MCT's mission is *the development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts.*

