



Margaret Hobbs photos

A group of young ladies, some dressed as their favorite Disney princess, enjoy a story read to them by the character Anna from "Frozen." Joining her in the story time is Belle and Elsa. The youngsters participated in a Princess Tea Party presented by the Park Theatre on Saturday.

Princesses party at Park

Youngsters enjoy tea with royalty

BY **MARGARET HOBBS**
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Magic was in the air Saturday at the Park Theater for a Princess Tea Party. Little girls and princesses just go together, and when punch and sugar cookies are added, it's a great day.

This is the third Princess Tea Party presented at the Park Theater, with 70 youngsters in attendance at one of the two morning teas.

Park Theatre administrative assistant Jennifer Pedigo feels the tea parties are a great way to open the historic theater to a different age group which can enjoy the facility.

"This is our third year to do this, and it is such a fun activity," said Pedigo. "The little girls get to dress up, visit with the princesses and just explore the Park Theater."

The mezzanine held tables covered with colorful cloths and assorted flowers in primary colors. The young ladies could complete a craft or do a coloring page while enjoying sugar cookies and punch.

The highlight for many was meeting

Elsa and Anna from "Frozen," and Belle from "Beauty and the Beast." The princesses were provided by Paula's Dance Academy, and portrayed by Lily Hutchins, Mary Humphrey and Ella Hutchins, respectively.

All the girls gathered on the Park Theater stage for story time, with Anna reading a book about her and Elsa's adventures.

Several parents enjoyed the party with their daughters, with Kayly Mason and Hana Nash having a reunion of sorts themselves. They are friends going back to high school, and now their girls Gaby and Violet are friends.

"The girls enjoyed themselves so much," said Mason. "They both loved meeting the princesses and said that was their favorite part."

The Park Theater is a mainstay in downtown McMinnville, having undergone a massive renovation in recent years. The theater holds various live entertainment presentations, stage plays and a variety of other events.

"I commend the folks at the Park for providing this activity for the girls," said Nash. "I'm so happy we were able to be part of it and to see the theater again."



Friends, from left, Gabby Nash and Violet Mason enjoy a quiet moment at the tea party. They are both 5 years old, and said meeting the princesses was their favorite part.



Four-year-old Caroline Tanner, wearing her Tinkerbell dress, has a fun time at her first Princess Tea Party. She shares some punch with her favorite rabbit, Cuddle Kate.



The Park Theater stage is a perfect setting for listening to a story. Here several young ladies seem to enjoy Tea Party story time, especially Addisyn Watson, as she cuddles her little sister, Devin.