

Flossmoor District 161 students get taste of rock 'n' roll stardom

By Matt Kelley
THE STAR

The gymnasium at Serena Hills Elementary School in Chicago Heights was turned into a recording studio last week.

And the Flossmoor District 161 school's 360 students — in kindergarten through fifth grade — raised their voices and became rock stars for the day.

The crowd of wide-eyed students sang along with local rock band Wolcott as the band performed its song "All Aboard for Love" at the school Friday.

The song, which is about loving one other and cooperating, was recorded for a CD single.

School officials plan to sell the CD to parents and community members to raise money for the Red Cross Sept. 11 Disaster Relief Fund.

Lead singer Ryan DeYoung said he and his bandmates were nervous to play before such a unique audience.

But they overcame their fears, and the students had a great time.

"We're excited to be doing this," DeYoung said. "We're going to try doing it at other schools."

Wolcott has been playing as a band since March. The group has performed at several venues in Chicago and the South Suburbs.

See **SERENA**, Page 4



Tom Miller (foreground), drummer for the band Wolcott, signals the end of a song as the band records a tune for an upcoming album with the help of Serena Hills Elementary School students. The band said the students sang so well that they didn't need to do another take.

Star photo
by Mary Compton

Serena

Continued from Page 1

A huge cheer met the band as they played their first guitar riffs. Serena Hills music teacher Jim Mollin said students knew the words by heart after a dress rehearsal Thursday.

"Everybody stand up. Grab your brother's hand," the students sang as the song began. "Grab your sister's too."

The chorus of the song — "All aboard for love" — was then belted out by 360 young voices.

And the first take was so good that it's going straight to CD release.

Wolcott performed a couple other songs for the happy audience.

Although DeYoung said he wrote the song before the Sept.

11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., band members and school officials agreed that it's a perfect fit for such a fundraiser.

Mollin said he had the idea for Wolcott to play for the students. It was easy to find a band; Mollin's son, Ben, is the band's bass player.

Serena Hills Principal Lynn Westerlund said she was delighted to see the students participate in such a positive message for the community.

"They did a beautiful job," she said. "I'm so proud. It's nice they had an opportunity to do this as a whole school."

After the concert, Wolcott members signed autographs in the school's classrooms.

The CD singles of "All Aboard For Love," recorded live with 360 Serena Hills students, will soon be available for \$4 a copy.

People interested in purchasing the CD can contact Trish Kurth at (708) 756-0716.

Free **FURNACE OFFER!**



Buy a Rheem Air Conditioning System and have it installed by Nov. 15, 2001 and receive a matching furnace