

The Brand New Kid

By Jessica

It's Monday morning and the first day of second grade for Ellie McSnelly and Carrie O'Toole. The vibrant colors of stage props and snazzy songs work together to create the perfect world in the eyes of a seven year old. *The Brand New Kid* is an inspiring tale about a variety of school children and how they react to change, and what better innovation than a new student?

"I like being a new student, I made friends and met my best friend Christian!" said Angel, a new student of St. Anthony's School. If only being the new kid was that easy for everyone! For Lazlo Gasky, being new was anything but easy. Lazlo is a heart warming character who, although being different, is easy to sympathize for. "You talk funny!" the students shout. But what really makes Lazlo so different from the other students? Could it be his Hungarian accent or strange clothes? Here is where the absolute journey begins, maybe he isn't so odd after all.

Soon miserable and lonely days at Brookhaven School would turn into long and discouraging weeks. "I'm still miserable, invisible, new." sings Lazlo in the darkness. What motivation is there for a child with no one to interact with during lunch time or recess, and who can he turn to when his foreign family is struggling with parallel issues? "Whose going to be nice to him? -NOT ME!" the group of children sing out loud. Luckily, not all children are as unpleasant as others, Ellie McSnelly would soon realize just how similar Lazlo is to the other students, and exactly how weird everyone can be. Subsequently all of the children would learn that they were all the same, whether they spoke the same way or not.

The Brand New Kid is beyond doubt an uplifting and educational story for people of all ages. Lazlo and Ellie, together, took the hearts of the audience through both happy and sad situations. The children in the audience connected with every character on stage, from the creepy lunch lady to the well known teacher that just won't stop blabbing. Adapting to a new student or even a new employee can be tough, but the feelings are mutual on either side of the fence. Remember that everyone is the same, no matter what race, gender or interests. The littlest gestures can make anyone feel like they belong, when was the last time you helped someone feel wanted? "It's a brand new day!"