

AN "A" FOR EFFORT

Students put Rural Hall Elementary on the national, international map

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Rural Hall Elementary Principal Frank Holcomb believes that each of his students has something important to bring to the table. He told them as much at a school-wide awards ceremony held Tuesday in the school's auditorium.

"We will recognize most of you for your accomplishments this year," he told the students, "(but) whether your name is called or not, you're all very special to us."

Many of the students did indeed take home awards Tuesday, for everything from achieving perfect attendance and excelling in the science fair, to earning high accelerated reading (AR) points and participating in various school fundraising events. Honors were also given to standouts in math, Spanish and human relations.



Moss

Some of those recognized at the Awards Day ceremony had made their mark outside the school's realm.

Three Rural Hall students threw their hats in the international ring, joining more than 2,000 children nationwide and 200,000 youths across the globe who submitted artwork to the Pentel 38th Annual Children's Art Exhibition.

Matthew Love, Garrett Ring and Isaiah Smalls all competed in this year's contest.

Ring and Smalls took home gold awards for their efforts, joining only 39 children across the world.

"We're so proud for what he's done. We always knew that he likes to draw and color and we just didn't realize how good he was at it," commented Rodd Ring, Garrett Ring's father. "We're so proud that he stuck with it and maybe he'll make a career out of it."

Smalls was joined by his little brother, Alex, 4, his parents, Kia and Christopher Smalls, and both of his grandmothers at the ceremony.

"He took a liking to drawing ever since he was ... about two or three. He's always doodling around, but this is the first time he's entered a contest of this magnitude," commented Chris Smalls. "It was a great honor (to see Isaiah recognized)."

All three of the boys' work impressed art teacher Henry Moss, who has taught at the school for more than 20 years.

"I just knew there was something special about the way they presented their ideas and imagination on paper," he stated. "It's a teacher's place to enhance and encourage them and put our hands behind them and push them on if we see the talent."

Jacob Hartle, a fifth grader, put the school on the national map. He represented Rural Hall at the 36th Annual Elk's National Hoop Shoot, a national competition that was held recently in Massachusetts. He competed in local, regional and state free throw tournaments before earning a seat at the national competition. Hartle took home the national trophy for the 10-11 year old division,



Artist Garrett Ring with his mom and dad.



B-ball star Jacob Hartle with mom, Traci.

sinking 25 out of 25 free throws. Along with the winners of the other divisions, Hartle's name will be inscribed on a plaque at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

He and his family are slated to travel to Anaheim, Calif., in July, to accept the Getty Powell Award, which is bestowed upon the highest scoring male and female free throw shooters.

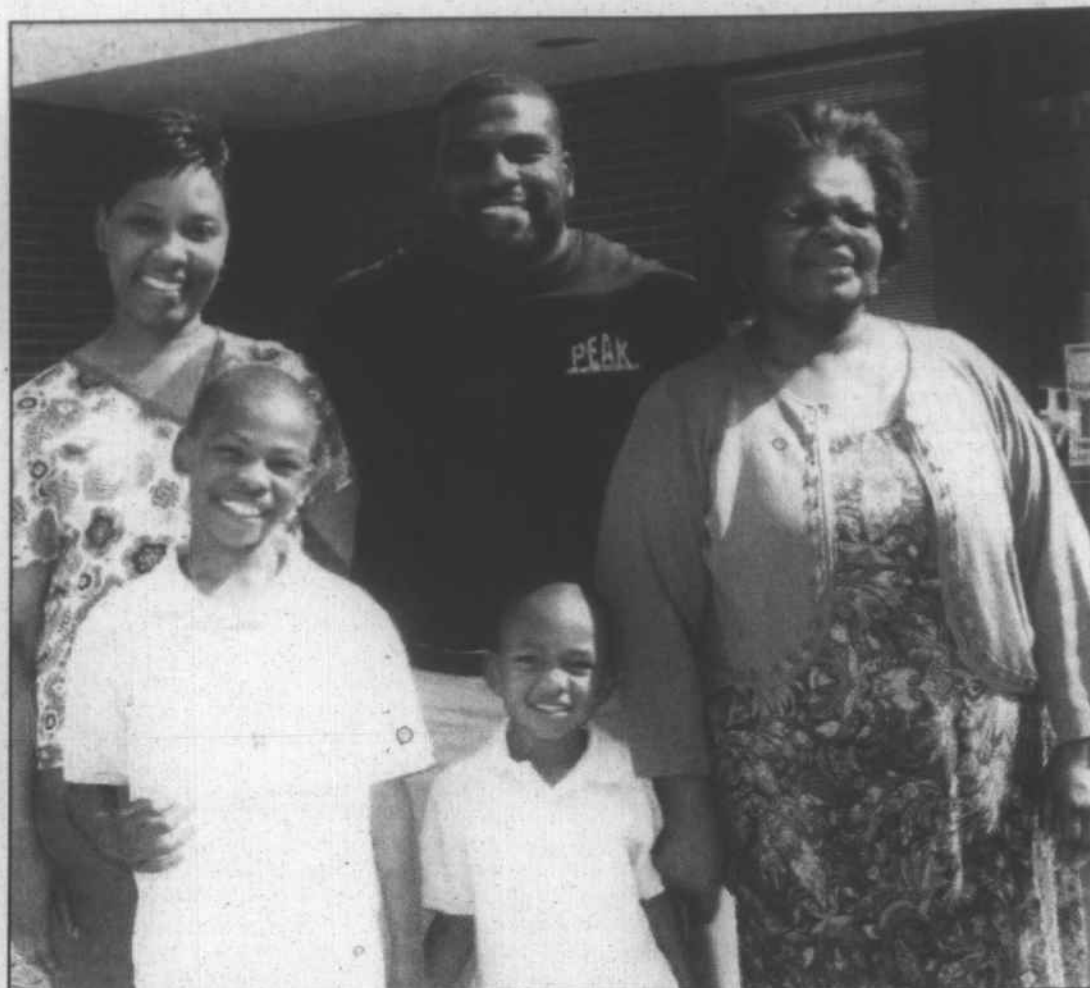
"It has been so exciting," gushed his mother, Traci Hartle. "It's really been cool - beyond my wildest dreams."

Hartle's achievements were especially exciting to longtime physical education teacher Fonda Rosenbaum, who recognized him during the ceremony.

"I have been the only gym teacher since this was built in '77-78; I've never had a national winner," she revealed.

Hartle had competed in the Hoop Shoot for two years prior to making the nationals, Rosenbaum says.

"Jacob won in 2006 and went on as far as runner up in the state. The next year, he was not our school winner, he was alternate," she explained. "The courage and perseverance that he showed to come back was just awesome. Not only that, he is just a great student, good character choices, just a really neat representative for our school."



Artist Isaiah Smalls, left, with his little brother, parents and grandmother.

Photos by Layla Farmer

Tickets available for 'Justice' dinner

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Steve Mosh and Eleanor Schaffner-Mosh will be the co-chairs of the National Conference for Community and Justice of the Piedmont Triad's 2008 Citation Award Dinner, which will take place at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on Nov. 6.

The National Conference for Community and Justice of the Piedmont Triad was founded in 1937 as the Greensboro Chapter of the national NCCJ organization (then known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews). In 2005, NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad became an independent 501 (c) 3 organization that is affiliated with the 81-year-old national NCCJ organization. The organization works to promote understanding and respect among all cultures, races, and religions through advocacy, education and dialogue.

The Moshes moved to Greensboro in 2001, when Steve Mosh took over as vice president and general manager of Kay Chemical, a Greensboro-based division of Ecolab. A 30-year-veteran of Ecolab, Mosh currently oversees several divisions of the company as Senior Vice President - Institutional Specialty Businesses. After working as Director of Marketing for management consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton for nearly 20 years,



Burroughs-White



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Schaffner-Mosh is working for the firm part-time and becoming more deeply involved with community endeavors in Greensboro.

In addition to recognizing the life's work of the award recipients, the Citation Award Dinner is NCCJ's major annual fundraiser.

In 2007, NCCJ presented the Citation Award to two outstanding recipients—the late Claudette Burroughs-White, former Greensboro City Council Member, and Bob Page, founder and owner of Replacements, Ltd.

For more information and to make reservations for the 2008 Citation Award Dinner, visit www.nccjtriad.org.

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