

197 5th graders graduate D.A.R.E. program

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

One hundred ninety-seven 5th grade students at Kings Mountain Intermediate School were dared not only to stay off drugs but to write the best essay on how they plan to apply what they have learned in D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to their life. Nine of them walked away with the best essay of their class. One of them walked away grand champion. A graduation ceremony, attended by proud families, students, teachers and guests, held on Wednesday morning in the school's gymnasium marked the commencement of the 10-week D.A.R.E. program.

At the end of their course in avoiding drugs, gangs and violence, the top essay winners from each class were handed a plaque and a ribbon as their reward and to serve as reminders of the promise they made to stay drug and violence free. The winners were: Brittani Bridges from Ms. Gaffney's class, Emily Harris from Ms. Hembree's class, Brandon Ledford from Ms.

London's class, Cameron Bullock from Ms. Littlefield's class, Emily Dover from Mr. Davis' class, Natalie Fedyschyn and Alyssa Greene from Ms. Greene's class, Zack Reese from Ms. Hicks' class and Allen Williams from Ms. Grayson's class.

Dover was also named the overall winner. D.A.R.E. Ofc. David Coburn and KMHS SRO Scott Hood gave her the grand prize ribbon, a stuffed mascot, and a pencil almost as tall as she is for her excellent writing. She read her essay to the crowd.

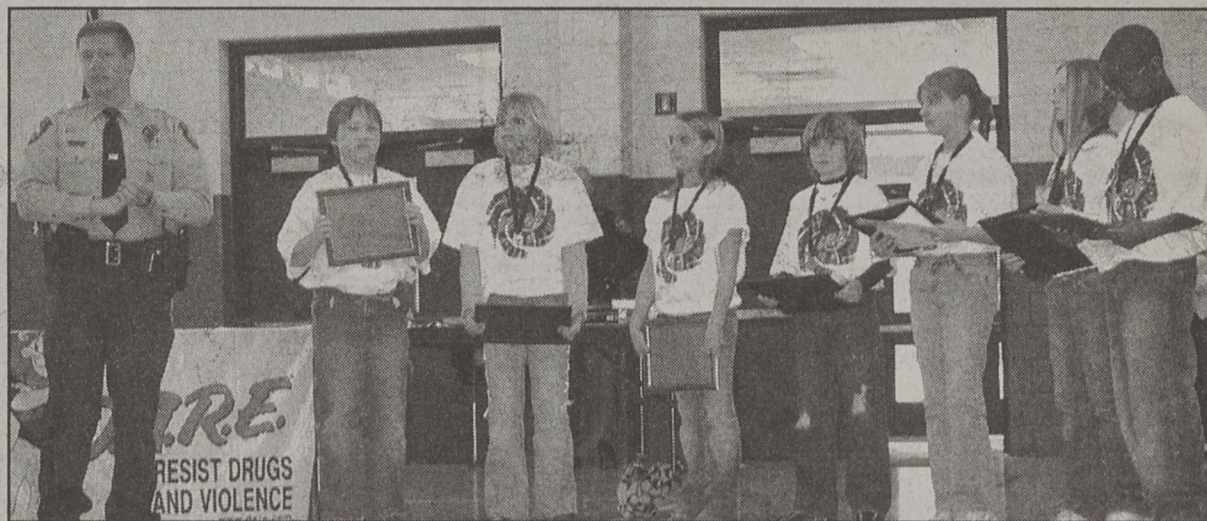
"We have learned that all drugs can affect your entire body. From heart to lungs, drugs can poison you," she said. "If someone offers you a cigarette, say NO! Also, smoking is against the law if you're under 18 or 21, so if you are under-age smoking you will be arrested."

"The skills we have learned in D.A.R.E. are very helpful to keep not only us safe, but the people around you. There is more than one way to say no to drugs and avoid them," she said. Avoiding places that are known to be drug-infested, saying no, ignoring the person offering drugs, giving a

reason not to smoke with humor or changing the subject, she said, are tips that they learned to give them the strength and tools they will all one day need to overcome peer pressure.

"If someone calls you chicken or some other name, it doesn't matter because they are the chickens because they gave into drugs," Dover said. "If you want to keep your teeth, hair and life, don't be an idiot and don't smoke. If you don't want to be one of the 400,000 people that die from 200 poisons in their body, do not try tobacco. If you don't want to die in jail from smoking illegal marijuana, I would stay away. There's more tar in it than any other smoking substance. If everyone stayed away from drugs, the world would be a happier place."

Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) told the D.A.R.E. graduates that being a lawyer he has seen the ill-effects of drug abuse and making the wrong choices. "I applaud you for what you've done and accomplished," he said. He asked a couple of young



The top essay winners in each fifth grade class of the first semester's D.A.R.E. program at KMIS received a plaque and a ribbon for their essays on how they plan to stay drug and violence free. Left to right: KMHS SRO Scott Hood, Zack Reese, Natalie Fedyschyn, Emily Harris, Cameron Bullock, Emily Dover, Alyssa Greene and Allen Williams.

ladies on the front row what was the most important thing that they have learned in the program. They shied away from answering and he said, "Alright, I won't pick on you. You guys will be voters one day," as the crowd broke out in laughter. Ofc. Coburn made him an honorary D.A.R.E. student, giving him a T-shirt and a mug.

Each student, distinguishable

by their matching D.A.R.E. t-shirts, was called by class to come up and receive his/her diploma. One by one, the students shook hands with their proud Principal Henry Gilmore III, Moore and Coburn, received their diplomas and filed back into their seats. Asst. Principal Roxanne Bridges made the closing remarks. "As a parent and as a parent of a new graduate here

today, I want to challenge you to commit with me to be a good role model for our children," she said, daring the parents to also say no to drugs and bad situations.

The 10-week D.A.R.E. is over but the lessons they learned will be with them for life as will the promise of a caring and helping hand from the KMPD.

Success at library earns North first graders a party with Curious George

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

First graders at North Elementary partied with Curious George on Friday afternoon, after having the most first graders of any school in Kings Mountain to sign up or to show that they had a library card during November 2006 at Mauney Memorial Library. The children were excited to see the nearly seven foot tall furry monkey they had read about in school and at home. But Curious George drifted in and out of the room, his curiosity constantly pulling him away from the group.

At one point during his visit he had to talk to the Principal Linda Stewart after allegedly trying to leave the library with a book that he could not check out because he did not have a library card. "He's gonna get it now," said one child. "He's too curious."

Children's Librarian Christy Conner told the class, "Every one should have a library card because it's FREE." The allegedly guilt-stricken monkey skulked back into the room. "George were you in so much trouble?" Conner asked. He slowly dropped his head. "George I was wondering if you got in trouble because you went to the library and checked out a book without a library card," she inquired. He shrugged.

"Will you ever do that again?" she asked. He shook his head. "Did you get yourself a library card?" He gave two big thumbs up. The children laughed at his curiosity. He was too cute to be held at so much fault. Being good, he sat in a chair at the front of the room to watch Conner act out the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" with a puppet. Then to George's delight, the class played one of his favorite games "Hot Banana, Hot



North First graders enjoy party Friday

EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Banana" which follows the same rules as "Hot Potato, Hot Potato." But once again George had to leave the room because he could not squelch the desire to eat the banana instead of to pass it.

The children were served delicious treats for their library card endeavors. They happily munched on a piece of chocolate chip cake, chips and drank a Hi-C cooler. Then, in honor of the guest of the day, Conner showed the kids illustrations from the book "Curious George at the Fire Station" while a narration was read on tape. George came back into the room for one last time to dance for his intuitive audience. After his silly dance, Conner asked the children if they had any questions for George before he left to head back to the library.

"Why can't George read a book to us?" one student asked. "Do monkey's talk?" asked Conner. She received loud yes's

and no's in reply. "Do monkey's really talk?" "NO," came the next reply. She told them to imagine him reading them a book, because with imagination they can go anywhere.

The party was a success. The children enjoyed seeing their curious friend walking and

dancing outside of the pages of their imagination. The teachers also seemed pleased to have seen such delight and enthusiasm on their student's faces, watching them absorb the fact that reading is fun, especially when good stories are brought to life.

Kindergarten orientation set for March 30

Kindergarten orientation will be held in all elementary schools throughout Cleveland County on March 30. Parents of children who will enter kindergarten in August should contact schools as soon as possible. Children who will be 5 years old on or before Oct. 16, 2007, are eligible to enroll.

Sessions start about 9 a.m. at all schools with registration beginning about 8:15 a.m. Parents will attend information sessions while their children visit with the kindergarten teachers. Sessions should last until about 10:30 a.m.

Parents should take their child's Social Security number, official birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency (lease or real estate document, power bill, etc.) and North Carolina Kindergarten Health Assessment Report to the orientation sessions. Health assessment forms are available at schools, the County Health Department and at most pediatricians' offices.

Call schools now, to register and for more information about sessions.

Preschool screenings set for Feb. 19-22

Cleveland County Schools will conduct screenings for the 2007-08 preschool classes Feb. 19-22 at the American Red Cross Building, 1333 Fallston Road (Highway 18) north of Shelby.

Children who reside in Cleveland County and will be 4 years old by Oct. 16, 2007, are eligible for screening. Call 704-481-8118 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. for more information or to schedule a screening appointment. Screenings will be provided by appointment only.

Carpenter's Funeral Home, Inc.

"Shaping the Future of Caring"

J. Carroll Carpenter
Funeral Director
John W. Porter
Funeral Director

For a Life Worth Celebrating

Would you like to work with funeral directors who understand how valuable it is for you and your family to have a truly meaningful funeral experience?

When the time comes to honor a loved one's memory in a personal way, give us a call.

P.O. Box 607
Cherryville, NC 28021
Tel: (704) 435-6711

Proud Member
2006
NFDIA

National Funeral Directors Association

The Herald

Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086
E-mail: heraldnews@kingsmountainherald.com

Bill Parsons (bparsons@kingsmountainherald.com).....Publisher
Gary Stewart (gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com).....Editor
Emily Weaver.....Staff Writer
Nancy Miller.....Advertising Coordinator
Jeannine McDonald.....Senior Graphic Artist
Dan Shoemaker.....Graphic Artist
Kathy Reynolds.....Circulation/Office Clerk
Janey Ollis.....Receptionist
Betty Johnson.....Mailroom Supervisor
Helen Wells.....Inserter
Mary Wood.....Inserter

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in Advance. All Prices include 6% NC State Sales Tax.

	1 Year	6 Months
Gaston & Cleveland County	\$27.00	\$17.50
Other NC Counties	\$28.50	\$19.25
Outside NC	\$33.50	\$21.25

MEMBER NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
Republic Newspapers, Inc.
North Carolina Press Association

We reserve the right to refuse any advertisements or news that we deem inappropriate or offensive to our readership.

Unique Lamps
Home Decor
Wall Art
Lamp Repairs

6 Way Floor Lamps

Fine Leather Recliners & Furnishings

Tiffany Gallery

Lamp & Home Outlet

2233 East Main St. • Lincolnton • 704-732-8001

Now and Forever

SHE'LL TREASURE THE MOMENTS

DON'T FORGET VALENTINE'S DAY!

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

ARNOLD'S MASTER JEWELER™
Jewelry & Gift Gallery

Celebrating 33 Years In Uptown Shelby

704-487-4521 • 1-800-827-1873
226 S. Washington Street
Uptown Shelby, NC

Arnold's Charge Accounts & Layaways Welcome
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
Visit us at www.arnoldsjewelry.com