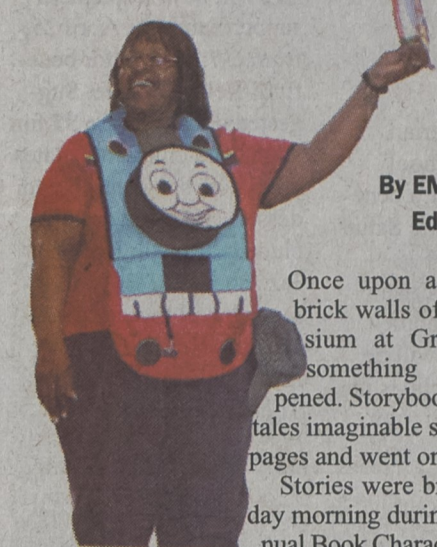


Stories brought to life...

Grover Elementary brings stories to life

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor



JOYCE PRESSLEY

Once upon a time within the brick walls of a simple gymnasium at Grover Elementary something spectacular happened. Storybook characters of all tales imaginable stepped off their pages and went on parade.

Stories were brought to life Friday morning during the school's annual Book Character Dress Up Day. This year, as hundreds watched from the four walls of the gym, students and faculty conjured their favorite characters to come forth as they transformed into the stories they love.

Valdemort from the Harry Potter series, Hannah Montana, Judie B. Jones, Thomas the train, Old McDonald, Captain Underpants, Darth Vader and more paraded through the gym.

Media Coordinator Kim Duckworth, who created and organizes the special day each year, said that they had 100 percent participation in the Book Character Dress Up event on Friday.

"Even if a child did not wear a costume, they carried a book and prop that identified a character from that book," she said.

"Probably the most original (character) was (brought to life by) Izrael Martinez," she said. "He came dressed as a bathtub (from the book 'Waves in the Bathtub'), using a cardboard box, painted and complete with a stainless faucet and handles."

Cody Hale, representing the book "US Army Tanks" sported an elaborate camouflage painted cardboard box, Duckworth added.

She is working on obtaining her national board certification and recently submitted an essay about the Book Character Dress Up Day. In the essay, she explained that she uses the event "to address the goal of exposing students to a wide

range of literature and for students to communicate their reading experiences."

Duckworth said that they begin planning for the day in August, leading students in discussions about authors, illustrators, book series, characters and story elements. "Small group sharing sessions are held to allow students to 'talk up' or promote an author or particular book," she wrote in her essay.

"Much time is spent talking about the merits of props for a specific character as many favorite characters are students much like themselves and how we can infer things about the character based on what the author tells us or what the illustrator shows us about them.

"Notes are sent home months in advance to allow parents ample time to read with their child and select a character they can identify with," Duckworth said.

She also coordinates with classroom teachers to help provide props or costume ideas for students. The goal is to make sure that every student has a character with whom he or she can identify with.

The Book Character Day "is a significant means for parents to become involved in fostering a love of literature for our students," Duckworth wrote in her essay. "It is yet another way we bridge the gap between home and school. Parents listen to their child read on a daily basis.

"Students are encouraged to think about books they've read, analyze characters they like or dislike and decide who they want to emulate."

For some students, it is a pop star, sports ZACH FALLS figure or famous person in history. For others it may be a fictional character, which sprouted from the imaginations of the writer. But for all, the event is momentous.

Steve Black, a sales representative of Scholastic Books, was at the parade Friday morning and he said that he was delighted to see it. The Book Character Dress Up Day kicks



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
Media Coordinator Kim Duckworth talks to two Captain Underpants Holden Turner and Keylen Grindstaff during Friday's parade.

off a Scholastic Book Fair that will be held at the school once the students return from Spring Break on Monday.

In addition to bringing the students, faculty, parents and community together, Duckworth said that she created the event to give children a chance to express their love for reading outside of the required reading program.

This is an opportunity for the books they read to come to life, she said. "It is an activity they will remember forever."

"Book Character Dress Up Day promotes reading because when students have been introduced to a character, they seek out other books featuring that character," she wrote in her essay for national board certification.

"When they dress as that character, they take ownership. It is motivational in that it sparks an interest in another character they see in the parade. As a result, the students actively and independently seek out other works to know more about that character. All of this positively affects student learning."

And they all lived happily ever after.

The end.



Left to right, Nathaniel (Charlie Miller), James the Less (Jerry Stark), Andrew (Randy Frye), Judas Iscariot (Justin Frye), Simon Peter (Claude Suber), John (Tim Buchanan), Jesus (Jeffcoat), James the Elder (Chuck Wilson), Thomas (Bob Suber), Philip (Gregg Petty), Matthew (Rodney Paulson), Thaddeus (Terry Lovell), and Simon the Zealot (Kevin McGinnis).

Last Supper reenacted at St. Matthew's

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

The characters of Leonardo da Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper," stepped off their canvas Thursday night and into the fellowship hall of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

The Last Supper was a momentous event told in the Bible and on Maundy Thursday the story was brought to life momentarily at St. Matthew's.

The 12 disciples, reenacted by members of the church, drifted into the room first, shaking hands and welcoming the congregation that would be dining with them. Jesus, portrayed by Pastor Bill Jeffcoat, sat down with his 12 disciples for a final seder meal, remembering Passover, and giving a lasting decree to love others as He has loved them after he washed the feet of his disciples.

On Thursday, members of St. Matthew's Lutheran, Resurrection Lutheran and other guests assembled in the church's fellowship hall to share that seder meal and witness the supper that inspired da Vinci's famous work.

The characters were seated on stage as the disciples were in the painting. Many scholars believe that their placements and body language were very significant in da Vinci's interpretation of "The Last Supper," giving depth to the Biblical story.

The character settings and their meanings were described in the service's program. From left to right sat, Nathaniel (Charlie Miller), James the Less (Jerry Stark), Andrew (Randy Frye), Judas Iscariot (Justin Frye), Simon Peter (Claude Suber), John (Tim Buchanan), Jesus (Jeffcoat), James the Elder (Chuck Wilson), Thomas (Bob Suber), Philip (Gregg Petty), Matthew (Rodney Paulson), Thaddeus (Terry Lovell), and Simon the Zealot (Kevin McGinnis).

The back drop of the stage was beautifully painted by members of the church to resemble the background of da

Vinci's work.

Each disciple gave a brief history of his life, how he came to follow Jesus, and how he met his end on this earth.

Under the direction of narrator and event organizer Ginger Jeffcoat, the congregation was instructed to eat the special foods set before them as Jesus and the disciples did. Each food represented a facet of the Jewish exodus from Egypt.

The breaking of bread symbolized the breaking of the Hebrews spirit under the Egyptians. During the meal, Jesus told his disciples that one of them would betray him. One by one the apostles asked "Surely not I, Lord?" according to Matthew.

"Jesus replied, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me' (Matthew 26:23, NIV).

After both Jesus (Pastor Jeffcoat) and Judas (Justin Frye) dipped their stalks of celery into a bowl of salt water (used to resemble the tears of the Hebrews' oppression) the betrayal was set in motion, unknowing to the rest of the apostles.

"What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus (Jeffcoat) told Judas (Justin), who left the table.

The meal ended with a last communion among the disciples and their Lord. Thursday's service ended with a communion shared by the entire congregation and a stirring call to remember the great sacrifice and His command to love.



St. Matthew's Faithful Girlz helped out at the service. Left to right, Jessica Lovell, Alley Wray and Abbey Wray.

24-26 Foothills MERRY GO ROUND FESTIVAL

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24 9am-6pm Cleveland County Arts Council Student Art Competition
8pm Movie a la Mode - Kung Fu Panda, FREE outdoor movie
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25 Arts on the Square 9am-4pm
Sponsored by Buffalo Creek Gallery & Uptown Shelby Association
A Juried Art Show & Sale of Regional Artists
On the Historic Courthouse lawn in Uptown Shelby

8am-3pm Opening Day for Foothills Farmers Market - certified grown in & around Cleveland County
9:30am 4th Annual Step One Challenge Fun Walk at Shelby City Park
10am-4pm Tea at the Historic Bankers House \$7
10am-4pm FREE Trolley Rides from the Shelby City Park to Uptown Shelby

FREE Shuttle service will begin at 10:30 am and make 30-minute round trips from the Shelby City Park to parking in these locations: Uptown Shelby Lafayette Street, Shelby Middle School, Ingles Grocery Store on US-74 West and Lowe's on Earl Road US-74 West.

Events sponsored in part by: First National Bank, Cleveland Headline News, The Star, Foothills Spotlight, What's Up Shopper, Cleveland County Health Care, City of Shelby.

Complete schedule: CityofShelby.com/Parks or 704-484-6811

'09 Youth Explosion

Youth Explosion 2009 at Adams Chapel AME Zion Church will feature a variety of activities for three evenings beginning Thursday, April 16 and culminating with a cookout at noon on April 18.

Rev. Angela Early, of St. John's Baptist Church in Gastonia, will deliver the message at the 7 p.m. Praise and Worship service Thursday. Refreshments and a time for youth to finish homework assignments will be from 6-6:45 p.m.

Pastor Prueella Kilgore Sanders has invited a city policeman to speak on "Drug Prevention" and "Gang Activity" on Friday, April 17, at the Praise and Worship service at 7 p.m., which will be preceded by refreshments and time to complete homework assignments.

The closing session on Saturday will feature a cookout for all participants, games and fellowship beginning at noon.

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