

Fun in the Summer Sun

First grade students at East Elementary splashed into summer fun last week.



GUNNIN' FOR IT... Left to right, Dawson Postell, Kylee Patterson, Savanna McMurry, Lauren Sochacki and Michael Blanton duke it out in a water pistol fight.



First grader Faith Bradley splashes through the sprinkler's wall of water.



M'KAYLA ADAMS

photos by
**EMILY
WEAVER**



Sabrina Parker, left, draws a long bubble with her wand as Elijah Skidmore and Hanna Allen, right, are mesmerized by the bubbles. In the background, Malazha Banner waits to dip her wand into the bubble mix.



Left to right, Gage Hildreth, Austin Thompson, Jon Paysour and Anthony Roberts have fun in the sprinkler.



Left to right, Marisol Lopez, Shaelin Smith, Maria Cavazos, Lona Sewell, Emily Stone and Britney Sanders play a game of net-less basketball during Splash Day at East Elementary.

Pets and people put on great show



More than 30 pooches participated in the first annual Bark's for Your Hearts Pet Expo, benefiting the American Heart Association and the Humane Society, Saturday at Patriots Park.

The pet expo, presented by Pawsitive Touch Grooming and sponsored by The Kings Mountain Herald, Love's Fish Box, Bridge's Hardware and Ronnie and Libby Hawkins, kicked off at 10 a.m. Vendors were camped out at the park, selling food and cool refreshments for both pets and pet owners.

Jodi Blanton of Shapes by Jodi and several of her clients gave a live presentation of fun ways to get fit. A disc jockey provided music. But one of the biggest draws was the dog show.

Top awards were handed out in 17 categories. Tina Blackwell's dog "Foxy" won "Best in Show" and the "Prettiest Tail" contests.

Bessie Blanton's patriotic bulldog "Moose", who was clad in camo, took top honors for "Best Dressed" and also stole the hearts of judges in the "So Ugly It's Cute" contest. Nick Howell's "Bella" earned the title of "Best Groomed".

Michelle Doucet and her dog "Kandie" won "Most Unique". And a pooch named "Hoss", owned by Elise Hayes, was crowned "Most Fit".

Wanda Hord's dog "Beethoven" won the title of "Fattest Pet". Makayla Jarvis and her pink colored pooch named "Daisy" took top honors in the "Prettiest Color" contest.

"Miles", owned by Andy Davis, was the "Happiest Pet". Jennifer Hunter's dog "Doodle" performed the "Best Trick".

Shea Stewart's little "Lucy" was honored with having the "Best Eyes" and "Cloe" won the "Best Baby Pet".

Michelle Wilson's "Pierre" was honored as the "Best Senior Pet". "Buster", owned by Jordan Trull, was named "Most Vocal".

"Sammy" won the "Most Ear-resistible Ears" contest with his owner Lacy Pearson. And Scott Neisler's puppy named "Kit" won the Owner/Pet Look Alike contest.



At left: Lindsey Bell, owner of Pawsitive Touch Grooming, with the help of sponsors, put on the first annual Bark's for Your Hearts Pet Expo last Saturday at Patriots Park.



At right: Sammy, seen here with his owner Lacy Pearson, won the Most Ear-resistible Ears contest in the pet show Saturday. Photos by Rick Hord



Makayla Jarvis holds her pink pooch "Daisy". They won the Prettiest Color contest in the first annual Bark's for Your Hearts Pet Expo. Photo by Rick Hord



Bessie Blanton's "Moose" took top prizes in the Best Dressed and So Ugly It's Cute contests in the pet expo. Photo by Rick Hord

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age five to ten.

Some of the ones she has in her classroom now, she also taught in first grade. And in a way she's watched them grow up. She's seen them learn to read, write, decipher a math puzzle, and

develop social skills.

"The hardest part is letting go of the kids," Mrs. Howell said. "They are like my little babies."

Mrs. Howell lives in Kings Mountain with her husband Drew Howell and their 22-month-old son Luke.

While she led her students, for one of the last times, to an extra-curricular class on Friday, her assistant tidied the

room and placed a stuffed animal fitted with a graduate's cap on each desk. It was graduation day in a sense - not just for the students.

A new adventure, in learning and teaching, awaits them all. Like any new thing it can be scary at first. It can appear too "big". But it can also be "exciting"...and some of the hardest things in life turn out to be worth it.