



Sa'id Uqdah answers a question from the presenter of a Black History Month Celebration at Grover Elementary School on Friday.



Staff member Darnell Shear and student Braelyn Littlejohn don Dr. Seuss and princess costumes for Book Character Day.

Compassion, hard work rule the day at Grover

Kids at Grover Elementary got a lesson in determination and tenacity Friday afternoon with a puppet show aimed at celebrating Black History Month and a stirring talk from Cleveland County School Board member Dr. Richard Hooker.

In what has become an annual event at the school, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church pastor Rev. M.L. Littlejohn was joined by Joyce Pressley in a number of kid-pleasing puppet sketches that demonstrated the value of working hard and never giving up.

Compassion and love were also major themes of the day, which had been rescheduled from February due to two bouts of wintry weather in the area.

"You go to Grover Elementary, so that means you're better than good," Hooker told the cheering children, which included pre-k through 4th graders. "You're great."

Following the puppet show, which first centered on the story of a puppet who struggles to complete a goal and another puppet who finds

that love and caring – not gifts or money – are the best cure for someone down in the dumps.

The puppeteers then turned to the audience to ask them about their dreams and how they might go about achieving them. Many of the eager students answered that they dreamed of becoming teachers, others said professional athletes, police officers and lawyers.

But the main theme of the day, backed up Dr. Hooker's comments was to keep trying and never give up.



Tanner Maxey gets in on the puppet action in a show put on for the entire school at Grover Elementary Friday.

Photos by DAVE BLANTON



Rufus, held by puppeteer Joyce Pressley, was the star of the show at the school's Black History Month Celebration on Friday.

Gover Elementary Book Day

It was all about book characters Thursday at Grover Elementary. Students and teachers convened in the school's gym to show off their favorite books and don costumes that aimed to celebrate the spirit of the respective stories.

The Book Character Day event coincided with Dr. Seuss' birthday and a book fair held by the school. Firefighters, superheroes, martial artists and all manner of animal costumes could be seen.

Media coordinator Kim Duckworth was dressed as a superhero librarian.

"This school loves its books and it loves good stories," Duckworth said, before a parade commenced around the gym floor.



Ashton Vouthivong portrays Officer Spence from his favorite book "Officer Spence Makes No Sense."



Logan Jones wears an "Incredible Hulk" costume at Grover Elementary's Book Character Day last week.



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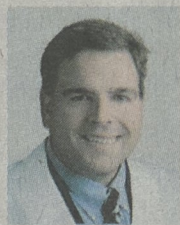
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